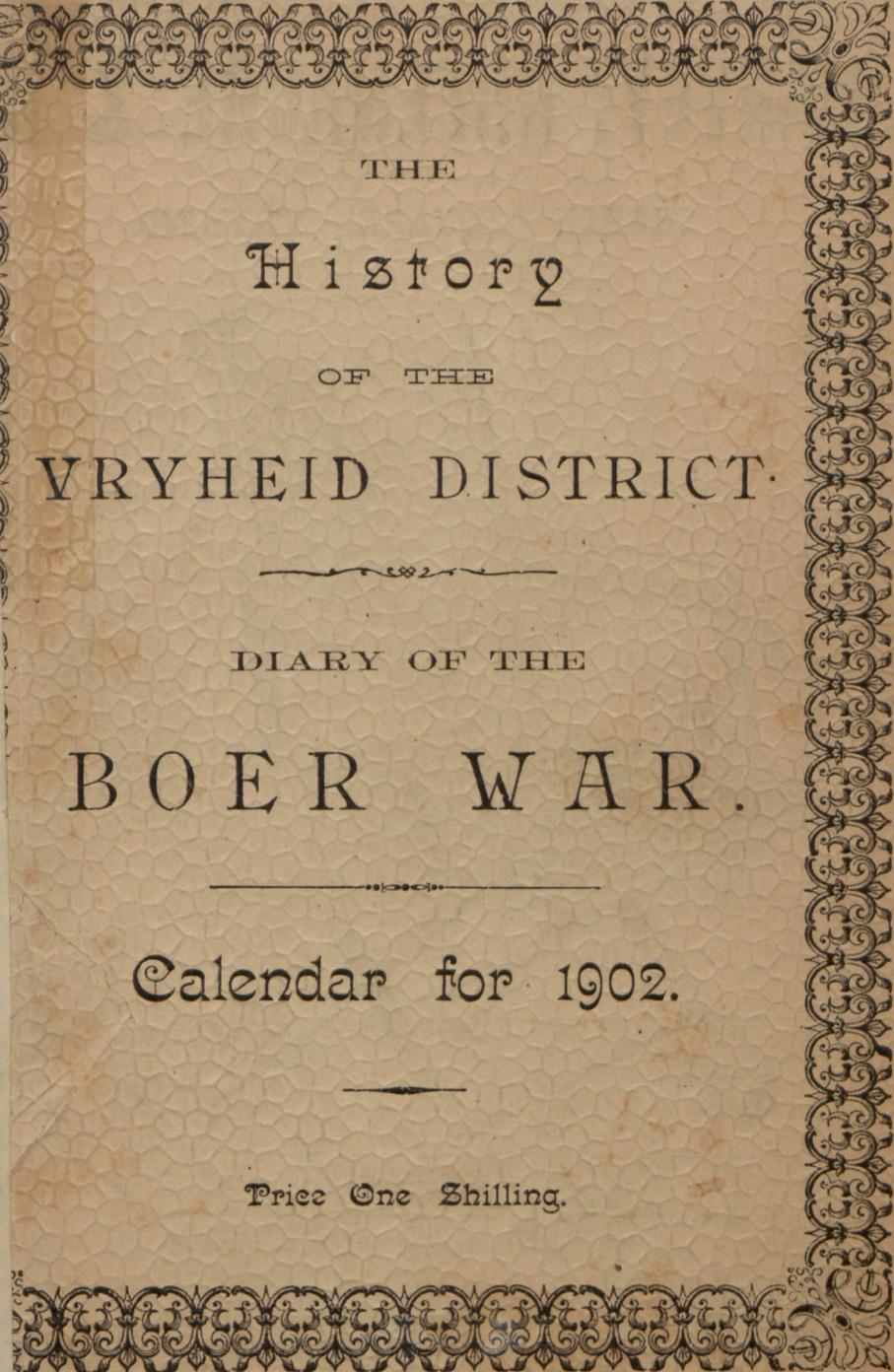


17-10/-



THE
History
OF THE
VRYHEID DISTRICT.

DIARY OF THE
BOER WAR.

Calendar for 1902.

Price One Shilling.

(Printed and Published by Frank Wilter, Vryheid, Transvaal.)

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Born in the year 1865. At
Edinburgh, Scotland. I came to
South Africa in 1883.

I have personally experienced
the history of the "Vryheid district
Field Cornet" **THE P. G. Henderson**
mentioned in this booklet, was my
late husband.

HISTORY

M. A. Henderson.

OF THE

Dundee,
1. 10. 46.

* VRYHEID DISTRICT. *

The district of Vryheid is bounded by Zululand on the East, South, and for the greatest part on the West; for a small part on the West, and altogether on the North, it is bounded by the districts of Utrecht and Piet Retief.

The district is about 1,200,000 morgen in extent—[One morgen—two English acres]—and comprises 1,100 farms, with a white population of about 5,000 souls—[Census of 1898.]

The Vryheid district was part of Zululand, which lies to the North of Natal, stretching up to the Lebombo

mountains and the Pongolo River—boundaries respectively of the Amatonga and Swazie tribes, while the sea to the East and the Transvaal to the West, form portion of the boundary.

The Zulu dynasty, founded by King Chaka, had grown and strengthened, despite the crushing of Chief Dingaan's impis at Blood River by the Boers on the 16th December 1838, after the terrible massacre of Piet Retief's Commando at a place called Dingaanstad, in the district of Vryheid. Panda, who was made King by

31
11/46

⊕ MEV. HENDERSON
OP VRYHEID TER
RUSTE GELê →

DIE begrafnis van wyle mev. Margaret Ann Henderson, wat Dinsdagnag te Dundee op 82-jarige leeftyd oorlede is, het Donderdag in die Vryheidse begraafplaas plaasgevind. Ds. G. J. V. Bell het die lyksrede gehou.

Baie familieleden en vriende het hulle laaste eer aan die ou volksmoeder kom betoon en onder andere was mnr. G. B. Pratt, haar neef, en sy gade ook teenwoordig.

Wyle mev. Henderson was die weduwee van wyle mnr. Pieter Frederick Henderson, alom bekend as „oom Piet,” 'n Kommandant gedurende die Engelse Oorlog.

Hulle was jarelank gesiene inwoners van die dorp en na die dood van oom Piet het wyle mev. Henderson by haar seun, mnr. Piet Henderson, op Dundee gaan woon. Benewens mnr. Piet Henderson, laat sy twee seuns, drie dogters en 'n groot aantal kleinkinders in die lewe.

vrou wat daarop aanspraak maak skaplikes reeds die afgelope aantal mlik 'n formule vir 'n verbeterde wyder, opgelos het. Sy sê dat haar ie wolafmakersnywerheid sal wees.

dekking hierdie nadele uit die weg ruim, het die nuwe metode geen skadelike invloed op die wol wat van die velle verwyder word nie.

Aangesien dit geen kalk bevat nie, sal die wol wat van die velle verwyder word, byna net so goed as geskeerde wol wees. Velle wat volgens die nuwe manier behandel is, is as eerste graad gekeur, en beweer word dat die koste nie hoër as in die geval van die huidige metode sal wees nie.



Puik Atletiek In Die Paarl Verwag

Die keur van Suid-Afrikaanse atlete sal by geleentheid van die aanstaande jaarlikse atletiekbyeenkoms in die Paarl gesien word, volgens 'n uitnodiging wat deur die onderskeie liggame aan die atlete gerig is. Onder die name wat die land se puikatlete verteenwoordig, word H. Cheling, van Natal, en Denis Shore (Noord-Transvaal) genoem.—(Sapa.)

Skut-kennisgewings

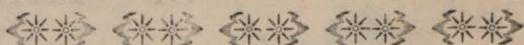
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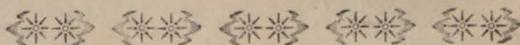
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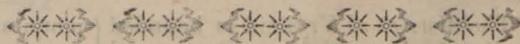
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them, was not a vigorous monarch, and was principally noted for a careless indolence. But a restless spirit sprang from the King's own family, and in his son Cetywayo was to be found one of the most powerful rulers of the great Zulu race.

Before his father's death, he evinced his power by attacking his brother, whom he killed, defeating his foes with immense slaughter. From that time Cetywayo was the virtual ruler of the Zulus, and his father Panda was King only in name.

From the outset of his career he set himself to make his people a great military nation, and organised a despotic system of armies, which made him a power in, and the terror of, South Africa.

Upon the death of Panda, Cetywayo, of course, claimed the throne, and the British Government favoured his pretensions; and in 1873, the late Sir Theophilus Shepstone — [father to Mr Arthur Shepstone, R.M., of Vryheid], — proceeded to Zululand and formally crowned Cetywayo as King of the Zulus.

At his coronation, the new-made King promised to govern his country in accordance with civilised ideas; to permit no slaughter such as was the custom in Zululand under the name of "smelling-out."

Cetywayo's promises, however, were not meant to be kept; and immediately upon Sir Theophilus Shepstone's departure he celebrated his accession by the sacrifice of a large number of girls, and replied in a defiant tone to the remonstrance of the Governor of Natal addressed to him on this subject.

A perfect military organisation was established; and with an idea that marriage made his warriors effeminate, he forbade them marriage unless he deemed they had won the privilege by efficient service in war.

Seeing the superiority of the white men's arms, he decreed that his soldiers should provide guns, although he by no means desired to discard the assegai, with which the Zulu is so formidable at close quarters.

Cetywayo and his forces soon became a source of apprehension to all the European races; and what created still more uneasiness was that he evidently sought war to occupy and train his impis.

In 1878, a Swazi chief, Umbeline, living under Cetywayo in Zululand, raided into the districts of Piet Retief and Utrecht, Transvaal, killed a number of natives, and seized a considerable quantity of cattle. In the same year the lawlessness of the Zulu warriors manifested itself within the borders of Natal. Two women of the tribe of Usirayo fled across the Buffalo River into the Umsinga district to escape from a distasteful marriage. They were followed into Natal by a party of Usirayo's men, forcibly taken from a Natal police hut, and it is said were subsequently killed.

The late Sir Bartle Frere was then Governor of the Cape and High Commissioner for the whole of South Africa, and he determined it was necessary to the peace of the Continent that the Zulu power should be curbed or broken.

An ultimatum was accordingly presented to Cetywayo, in which he was required to surrender Umbeline and Usirayo and his sons by a certain time, and to pay fines amounting to 600 head of cattle. He was also required to pledge himself to receive a British Resident, disband his regiments of warriors, allow his young men to marry, abandon the "smelling out" practices, re-admit missionaries, and make war only with British consent.

The Zulu monarch received the delegates sent with this ultimatum

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in a manner which indicated to those acquainted with Kafir customs studied insult, and the twenty days allowed for compliance with its terms passed by without any reply.

This conduct was taken as a declaration of war, and on the 10th Jan. 1879, English forces marched into Zululand under the command of Lord Chelmsford.

The force, which was divided into three columns, numbered 6,000 Europeans, amongst whom were several Volunteer Corps; and a large Native Contingent accompanied the British force.

Although it was well known that the Zulus were a fierce and warlike race, of dauntless courage, those in charge of the expedition appeared to have undervalued their foe. They were soon to be undeceived, however, for on the 22nd January, 1879, only twelve days after its entrance into Zululand, the main column experienced the terrible disaster of Isandhlwana, where, Lord Chelmsford, with most of his mounted men, having been drawn from his camp,—(which he left in charge of the 24th Regiment, a small detachment of artillery and some Volunteers),—by a ruse of the enemy, that camp was attacked by an overwhelming force of savages, about 15,000 strong, almost every man of the brave defenders killed, and the whole of the baggage of the column, with two guns, fell into the hands of the Zulus. The Volunteers suffered severely, and few of the Natal Carbineers returned home.

Thousands of Zulus were killed by the British, and it is said, that after they took the camp, many of them died from the effects of drinking of the contents of the medicine chests which they took for liquor.

Natal was in consternation, and it was fully expected that the victorious Zulu impi would sweep through the

Colony; but fortunately Cetuywayo stayed his hand. Cetuywayo always maintained that he had given strict orders that none of his men should enter British territory. It is possible, however, that the gallant defence made by a handful of Britishers at Rorke's Drift had a good deal to do with checking an invasion.

The news of the disaster thrilled England to the core, and reinforcements were poured into Natal and Sir Garnet Wolseley was sent out to assume supreme command.

Other disasters occurred at the Intombi and Hlobani;—[both places are situated in the district of Vryheid]—but the crushing weight of British battalions disciplined and well armed told against naked savages, and finally the Zulus fought their last battle at Ulundi, where about 20,000 of them tried to storm the British troops, who formed a square, and drove them back with heavy loss. The defeat of the Zulus there ended the war.

A few weeks after the battle of Ulundi Cetuywayo was captured, the chiefs submitted willingly to the British, and the Zulu nation was from that day broken, and has never since recovered its former supremacy.

Cetuywayo was exiled, and Sir Garnet Wolseley proceeded to make arrangements for the settlement of Zululand. Being forbidden to annex the country, he accordingly divided it into thirteen districts, to each of which he assigned a chief, one of whom was the famous John Dunn,—[a Scotchman, who lived amongst the Zulus for many years, feared, and respected by them. He died in Zululand a few years ago],—and another Hlubi, a Basuto, who had done service as an auxiliary during the war.

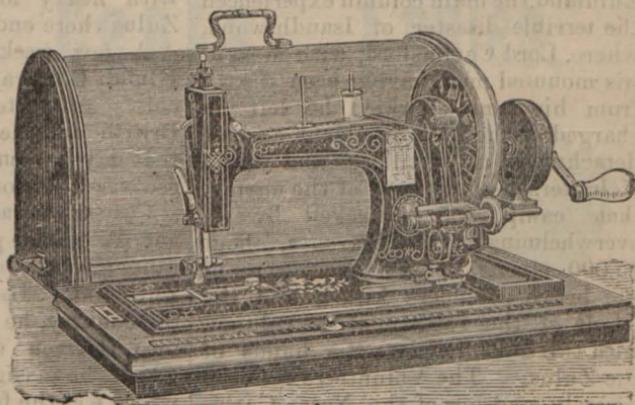
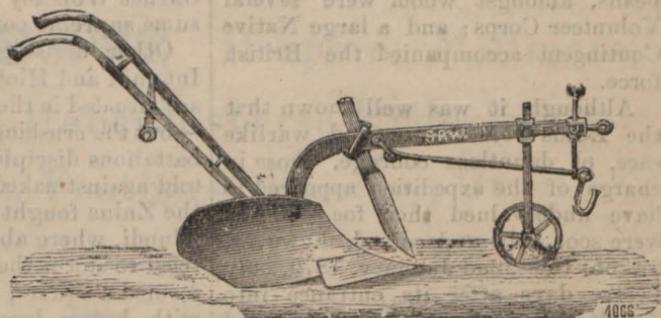
The settlement effected by Sir Garnet Wolseley in 1879 proved anything but a success. The thirteen Kinglets indulged in perpetual strife; and

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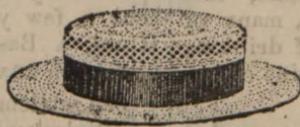
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it is reckoned that, in the four years following the British invasion, far more than double the number of natives were slain in internecine strife than were killed in that campaign.

Hlubi, the Basuto, was the object of antipathy to the Zulus, and was frequently attacked by them, but always held his own. Finally he defeated them, with immense slaughter, at the neck leading into the 'Forgosi Valley; and the bones and skeletons of the killed in that fray even yet whiten the slopes of the hills overlooking the Tugela.

The late John Dunn was about the only chief who preserved order in his territory; he ruled with an iron hand, but he kept his people prosperous.

As for the British Resident, he had little or no real power.

In 1882 considerable agitation took place in favour of the restoration of Cetywayo, and the Imperial Government yielded, and gave him back a portion of his former kingdom.

On the 29th January, 1883, Sir Theophilus Shepstone installed him, in the presence of some 5,000 of his people. But the magic of the name of Cetywayo had departed, and he was no longer either feared or loved by the Zulus.

Almost on his return, Usibepu and others attacked him, and completely routed his party. Cetywayo fled to the British Resident for protection, and remained with him till his death, in 1884.

On the death of Cetywayo, the Usutu party, who were loyal to their King, acknowledged his son Dinizulu as his successor, and he claimed to rule over the whole country.

Usibepu, who was Chief of the Umsandhlakazi, disputed his right, and constant fighting took place between the rival factions.

Bloodthirsty raids were made by both parties, the land was devastated,

cattle driven off, and the enemy, wa^t beleaguered in the caves and hills.

Often a single kraal was suddenly attacked by a large party, and hundreds of Kafirs were killed.

In more than one locality throughout the country, are still to be found numbers of human skeletons.

Usibepu was too powerful for the Usutu, and Dinizulu's kingship was little more than nominal.

Thus the Zulus destroyed each other.

Dinizulu, who in most cases was defeated, at last solicited assistance from the English Government in Natal, but it was refused him; and English volunteers who had banded to go to his aid were prevented entering into Zululand.

Subsequently he went to the Transvaal Government. But here another disappointment awaited him, the London Convention being an insurmountable obstacle.

All his representations, however, were in vain.

The King thereupon approached the individual Boers living along the boundary of what was then Zululand. These Boers promised their assistance, although warned by their Government not to interfere. They did this partly for self-preservation and the security of their property, the keeping in order of their Kafir subjects, and to prevent further bloodshed, but principally with the hope of securing more ground.

Two farmers (Kootje van Staden and Coenraad Meyer) visited Dinizulu and after having treated with him, he came himself with his counsellors to the Transvaal boundary in order to treat with the Boers.

Here it was agreed that the Boers should help Dinizulu to drive Usibepu out of his territory; for which service they were to get a certain part of Zululand, which the Kafirs considered

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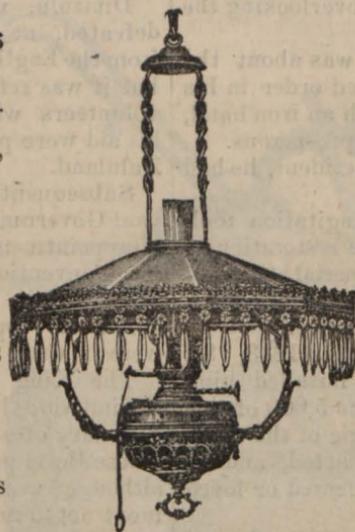
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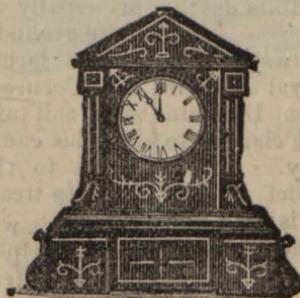
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to be worthless to them on account of being difficult to protect and already devastated.

On the 3rd of May, 1884, a committee of eight farmers was formed to regulate all further proceedings, to go into Zululand and put a stop to further devastation and bloodshed.

About 150 white men went to Dinizulu's capital, and there a contract was signed by the king and his councillors, which empowered the Boers to call up as many volunteers as they might consider necessary to defeat Usibepu and establish peace in Zululand; and that there should be given to them, as compensation for their services, as much territory as might be required to form an independent republic.

More than 500 burghers joined—mostly farmers from the Transvaal, Free State, Natal and Cape Colony.

At last the day arrived that the Boers were to accompany Dinizulu to attack Usibepu and retake the conquered country and booty from him.

Lucas J Meyer was chosen as chief-commandant to this expedition.

Only 112 men followed him when he went forward with Dinizulu's army.

Some of the burghers, however, had to stay and guard the camp, but others stayed behind through fear.

Usibepu was discovered in the Lebombo mountains, where he had driven the stolen cattle into a narrow kloof, while his large army was sheltered by the bush at the entrance.

His enemies would have been caught in the snare and all killed, had not a timely warning made known the danger to the Boer commando.

Only one battle, however, was fought, on the 6th of June, 1884, and the enemy was conquered.

Usibepu fled. Many of his followers were killed, and all the cattle were given back to Dinizulu.

Returned to the Boer camp, it was resolved to increase the number of volunteers to eight hundred men, through fear that a smaller force would not suffice to defend the country and constitute a separate state.

Dinizulu had to give 800 farms of 6,000 acres each. This would have been almost the whole extent of Zululand.

Great dissatisfaction was caused amongst the Zulus by this demand, and complaints were made by them to the British Government.

England took Dinizulu's part and forbade the Boers from taking so much ground.

The matter, however, was settled peacefully and the Boers were allowed to retain part of the country.

After the site of the town of Vryheid had been marked out, the country surveyed, and the different farms apportioned, the Committee or Council of the burghers passed a resolution to the effect that an independent state should be formed under the name of the "New Republic."

The Committee then dissolved itself to make way for a Volkraad who were to be chosen every three years by public vote.

The first Volksraad chosen were P R Spies, Chairman; J Combrinck, Piet L Uys, C van Staden, J van Reenen, W Moolman, R Steenkamp, F de Jager, Tom Bell, J Davel, Piet Fourie and C H Lafnie.

This body, as being the most powerful in the land, then assembled to make the necessary laws, and to lay the foundation of the New Republic.

During this sitting, among other things the following offices with their salaries were established:—

President, £750 per annum; State-Secretary, £650; Registrar of Deeds, £550; Attorney-General, £550; Landdrost, £400; — all these with their secretaries, whose salaries ranged

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from £100 to £250 per annum; and Commandant-General, £500.

When the Volksraad had completed all the laws and regulations, the public had to elect the officials to fill the appointed posts.

On the 6th August, 1884, a government over the acquired territory was formed, and was called the New Republic, with Lucas Meyer as act.-State President; D J Esselen, State-Secretary; J W Henderson, State-Attorney; J Bell, Registrar of Deeds; A von Levetzow, Orphan Master and Landdrost; Jan C Pretorius, Commandant-General.

A Cabinet or Executive Council was also formed to act for the Volksraad in matters requiring immediate attention. It consists of the President, as chairman, the State-Secretary, the State-Attorney, the Commandant-General, A A van Schalkwyk, Secretary; and two non-official members Thos Steenkamp and J van Staden.

The judicial power was vested in the Landdrost and the fieldcornets.

There were four fieldcornets — Joe Wiggert, I Vermaak, P Hendersen and Paul Bester.

There were also two courts of justice, viz., the Court of Heemraden—[a kind of permanent jury],—and the High Court. For this latter court three inhabitants of the State were appointed and sworn. Their names were Tom Bell, Jan Steenkamp, and Piet Otto.

But on account of their not having studied law, they became mere tools of the Government, and their conduct so disgusted the people that it was decided either to appoint a permanent judge or to bring the State under the circuit court system of the Transvaal.

As capital of this Republic, the town of Vryheid — [Liberty]—was founded, November 12th, 1884.

The Boers also laid out a township at St Lucia Bay, which caused the

British Government to send a gunboat and plant the Union Jack there in 1884, and also led to a declaration refusing to acknowledge the New Republic.

The very first to come here — the voortrekker [pioneers]—were mostly Afrianders, but as soon as it was deemed safe, all sorts of people from all parts of the world flocked in. Some of these were such bad characters, and exercised so bad an influence over the country, that it was often remarked that the New Republic had become the resort of the refuse of South Africa—in fact a veritable Alsatia.

The following figures show the chief sources from which revenue was derived in the New Republic:—

Land-tax, £1,500; transfer dues, £1,000; stamp duty, £1,000; Native hut-tax, £3,000; licenses, £600, &c. &c.

Little money was spent on public works. A small Government building was put up,—[where the post office is now]—which had to serve many purposes, that is about all.

No roads hardly were made or repaired, and no bridges built, although labour was cheap. Consequently many rivers could be passed and mountains crossed only at great risk.

Even in the town of Vryheid itself very little was done towards beautifying the place.

There was, however, a regular post to and from Natal and the Transvaal—when the rivers were passable.

A telegraphline was put up between Vryheid and Utrecht.

Taking all things into consideration the Government first tried to please the public, and succeeded fairly, until unfortunately favouritism creeped in.

Great excitement took place at the general election of officials for the New Republic. The result was as follows:—

President, General P Joubert—[late

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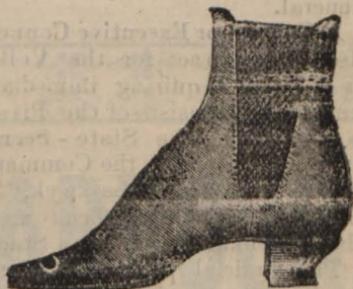
HIGH STREET, VRYHEID.

SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS

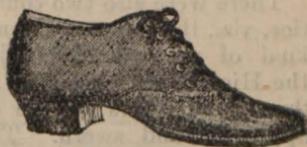
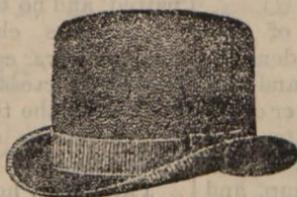


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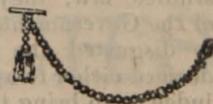
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Commandant General of the Transvaal] — Commandant-General, Lucas Meyer; State-Secretary, D J Esselen; State-Attorney, the late J Henderson.

But General Joubert declined the offer of Presidentship to the New Republic, whereupon Lucas Meyer took the President's chair and Jan C Pretorius was elected Commandant-General.

His, and all the other appointments was confirmed at the first sitting of the Volksraad.

Lucas Meyer's appointment was considered illegal by some burghers. They maintained he was not properly elected by them.

This gave rise to a feeling of discontent amongst the burghers, but the matter, however, was allowed to rest for the time being, until the negotiations with England should be completed and the New Republic be declared independent by that country.

A deputation was sent to England but returned without having done anything.

Two deputations were then successively sent to Natal. They were Lucas Meyer (President), D Esselen (State-Secretary), and J van Staden.

An Act of Settlement was drawn up there, but in it England did not declare the New Republic independent.

This state of affairs lasted till 1886, when Sir Arthur Havelock, Governor of Natal, under instructions from Home, admitted the Boer claims, and the "New Republic" was acknowledged by England.

These negotiations delayed another election for three years, during which time the temporary officials held office. Having broken this election law, and not remedying it soon, the Republic slowly became a monarchy.

Through this door many more got into office, and this caused such great dissatisfaction that armed burghers

went to the Volksraad demanding a dissolution and a fresh election.

At this state of affairs in Vryheid a strong feeling started up amongst many influential burghers to ask the British Government to annex the New Republic to Natal. Those prominent to favour this scheme were J Hendersen, (State-Attorney), Tom Kelly, Isaac Baranov, A von Levetzow (Landdrost), Jan Pretorius (Comdt.-General), Sam Baranov, H Lieversage, J Bell (Registrar of Deeds), late Piet Hendersen and Joe Wiggett.

But unfortunately the Natal party were outnumbered by those in favour of the Transvaal.

Strong words were used and it seemed at one time as if the affair would end in bloodshed.

However to smooth matters over a proposal to annex the New Republic to the Transvaal was brought forward by the Volksraad and carried.

Acting President Meyer was immediately sent to Pretoria to negotiate. There he agreed to certain conditions which, were not favourably received here. Yet most thought it preferable to be annexed, even under those conditions, to going on as they had hitherto done.

The Transvaal expressed itself perfectly willing, but it was questionable whether England would allow the South African Republic to extend its boundaries so far.

At the time another cause of contention between England and the Transvaal was the question of free importation of British products into this country, which had been granted to England, a privilege, many thought she is not likely to give up, although a strong feeling existed against it.

The Government of the New Republic also made a contract with Dinizulu and his counsellors in which they agreed to protect them against any foreign power on condition that

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G. FERGUSON,

✧ Photographer, ✧

Church-Square, Vryheid.

they should be subject to them.

This was a sore point, for the Zulus would not hear of this treaty being broken, even after they had learnt that the Governor of Natal had proclaimed Zululand British territory.

It almost seems at one time as if these points and other questions would be the means of preventing the annexation of the New Republic to the Transvaal.

Those that were in favour of annexation to Natal hoped that such would be the case.

Daily it became plainer to the clear-sighted and impartial man that it would very greatly benefit this small state to be joined to Natal. Where was all the money to come from to set and keep in motion the governmental machinery of this young republic?

The Native question was another cause for anxiety.

At the time of this unsatisfactory state of things in the New Republic—the leaders of the party in favour of annexation to the Transvaal—exerted themselves, and the country was annexed. Prominent amongst this party were Lucas Meyr (President), D Esselen (State - Secretary), Louis Botha, A A van Schalkwyk, J van Staden, R Steenkamp, J Combrinck, and several of the Emmetts.

On the 21st July, 1888, the New Republic was united with the Transvaal, of which it since forms a district.

In very truth the voortrekkers—[Pioneers]—had a hard life to lead. When they first came to take possession of the country, there were no houses or cornfields. Each man with his family had to live in a tent or wagon until such time as he could build a habitation. Already, however, a great many houses have been constructed and numberless fruit and other trees have also been planted

about the homesteads.

Most farms are mere cattle ranges as yet, owing to the unfitness of the soil for grain growing.

All kinds of cereals are very subject to rust except kafir-corn, mealies, pumpkins, onions, and potatoes which are grown in large quantities.

Horses, cattle and sheep seem to thrive here.

The district is very mountainous and well watered, excepting the portion near the Lebombo mountains in the low veldt.

Thither the cattle farmers move in the winter with their horned cattle.

Considering the wild state of the country, it is surprising how scarce wild animals are. This is chiefly owing to the untiring efforts of the natives to exterminate them.

However, in the lower districts, amongst the forests where the ground is boggy and the grass very rank, numerous tigers, lions, hippopotami, koodoes, — the red, water and blesboks, and other varieties, — such as the blue wildebeest and zebras, are still to be found.

Almost every winter parties are got up to go and hunt these animals.

Cecil Emmett, late sheriff of Vryheid, who was a keen sportsman and a splendid shot, used to go to the hunting field in the bushveld almost every winter. At his home in Vryheid he had a regular museum of all kinds of horns, skins, &c., of wild animals he killed himself in Zululand.

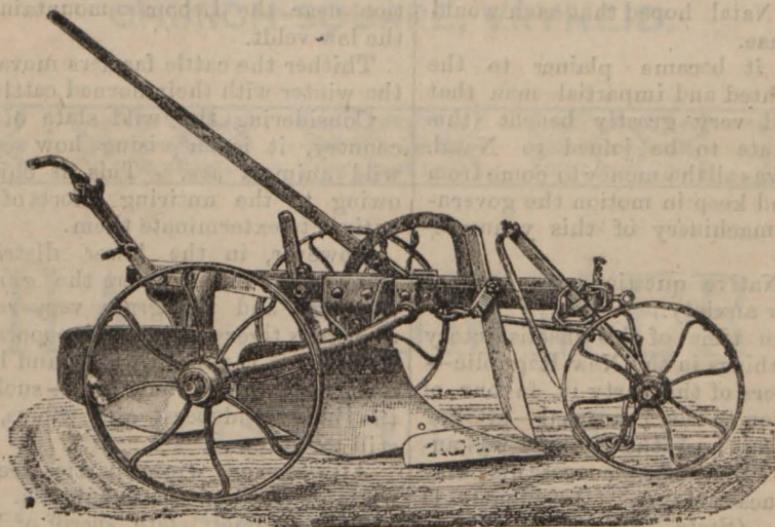
In certain parts — especially in the 'Ngomo bush—the great python is still to be found, as are also crocoliles in some of the rivers.

Zululand, of which this district forms the best part, is altogether a peculiar country, in this respect—that both high and low, warm and cold, summer and winter veldt are found within its limits. The country is

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traversed by several mountain chains, e.g. Kambula, Zungene, Hlobane, Thabakulu, Ngomo, Inhlatsatje, and Babanango, etc.

The veldt on the top of these mountains is cold and sour, but healthy withal; while the country between has warm and sweet, but in many respects very unhealthy veldt.

Taking their rise on these mountain slopes are numerous spruits or rivulets, which, lower down, combine to form three fairly large rivers—the Umkuze, the Umvolosi, and the Umslatuze.

In many respects this country resembles Natal as well in soil, grass and vegetation, as in climate; and is therefore completely different from either the Cape Colony, Orange River Colony, or the Transvaal.

If it were possible to stand on some high mountain and view the whole landscape, a beautiful panorama unfolds itself. In the background are the magnificent hills, some with their verdure-carpeted slopes gradually declining and melting away into the plain beneath; others with their forest-covered sides crowned, as it were, with perpendicular krantzies; while here and there, little gleams of silver peep out, forming the downward course of some little stream.

Leaving the mountains, the eye involuntarily scans the plains. It is at once struck by their undulating nature. Gradually these undulations grow heavier and steeper, until they disappear beyond the horizon to seaward, where they are considerably larger than at their commencement.

The soil consists chiefly of potclay and turf, which the summer rains make exceedingly fertile.

Consequently the plains are covered with grass about six feet high, and in summer are beautifully green, resembling extensive cornfields, but in winter assume a greyish tint. When

in this stage, the grass is burnt off in order to obtain fresh food for the cattle.

Small bushes ("boschjes") are unknown here.

Trees are very few at present, as the natives destroyed them all before they were dispossessed of the country. But wherever they are planted they thrive splendidly.

The climate is almost tropical. Where it not for the very frequent thunderstorms which prevail in the summer season, the heat would be almost unbearable. These storms are often so severe that the roads, especially where they cross the rivers, are washed away, thereby rendering travelling very difficult and dangerous.

The town of Vryheid, the only one in the district, has a white population of about 900 souls, and is distant from Utrecht 6 hours on horseback—[36 miles],—about 10 hours from Piet Retief, [Swaziland border] and 7 hours from Dundee in Natal, which is the nearest railway station.

The earthworks of the railway Vryheid-Dundee are already well advanced in construction, but the work was stopped on account of the present war.

About 20 miles North-East of the town of Vryheid, on the boundary between Vryheid and Utrecht and the river Bevaan, or about 3 miles from Paulpietersdorp, and in the immediate proximity to each other, there are two valuable mineral baths, one thermal and the other cold. These remarkable springs, owing to their curative properties, have, during the last few years, been much visited by sufferers, who have all been witness to their excellent therapeutic powers.

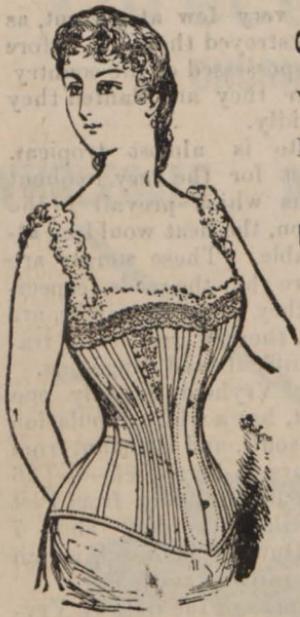
The temperature of the warm spring is 105° Fahrenheit.

The water is soft and odourless and has a pleasant taste. A good and complete analysis of its contained

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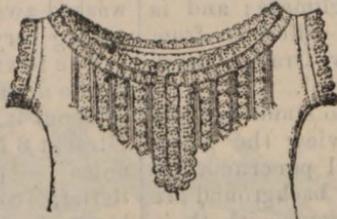
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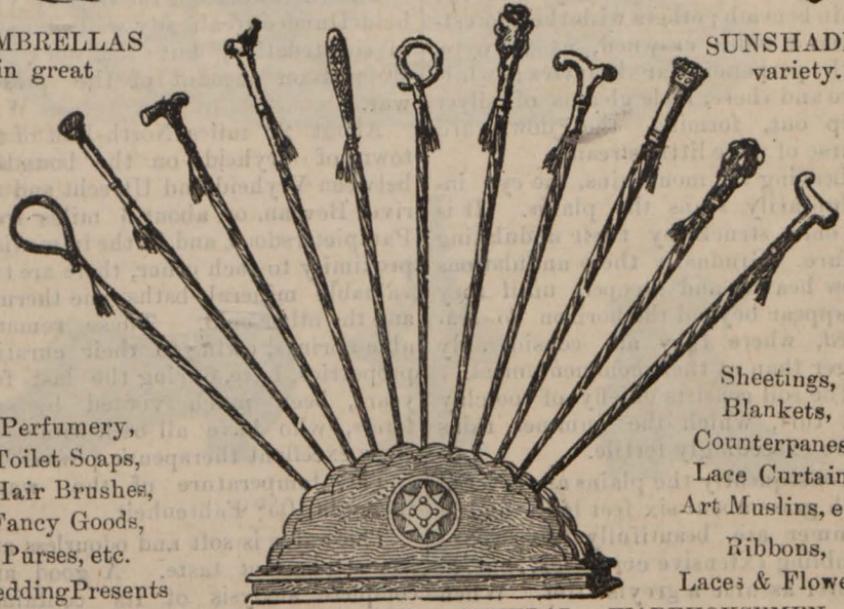
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gases has not yet been made; for that purpose a personal visit to the springs by an expert would be necessary.

The water contains the following constituent parts:—

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Silicia..... | 1.45 grains. |
| Iron oxide and alumina | 0.68 " |
| Lime carbonate..... | 1.38 " |
| Magnesia sulphate..... | a trace. |
| Soda carbonate..... | 3.50 grains. |
| „ sulphate..... | 4.95 " |
| „ chloride(common salt) | 5.84 grs. |

The water is very wholesome and adopted for both medicinal and domestic purposes.

On completion of the Vryheid-Dundee railway line these mineral baths may be easily reached by visitors from the whole of South Africa.

Coal is found here in abundance and of very good quality. The hill Hlobane is a regular coal mountain.

There is supposed to be plenty of copper in the district. A Johannesburg syndicate was already at work opening up a copper mine here when the war unfortunately put a stop to further development.

Some of the hills in the district are full of iron stone. Even on Lancaster Hill, overlooking the town of Vryheid, indications of iron have been found.

Silver and asbestos have been discovered on various farms.

Quartz reefs run in all directions throughout the district.

In many parts prospectors have been at work, and here and there they have sunk shafts in some of which gold has been found in payable quantities.

Especially in the latter half of the year 1895, representatives of large syndicates from Europe, Johannesburg and elsewhere, have gone over the district, buying up and securing farms.

The different goldfields in the Vryheid district were steadily gaining the confidence of outsiders. The visitors experienced and otherwise were many and frequent by both public and private conveyance.

The Jameson Raid, however, put a damper to prospecting work here and everything got dull again.

Gold experts thought highly of the capabilities of our gold and other mineral areas, and give it as their opinion that the cause of their backwardness in the past was simply the lack of capital and skilled labour. With this and judicious working they have no doubt as to the future prosperity of the Vryheid district.

Just after the war broke out two prospectors named Thys Coetzee and T. Heyns discovered some very rich quartz reefs at the Ingotje. Some samples brought into town by them from there were covered with visible gold.

The following is a list of farms on which more or less prospecting work has been done, and, in some cases, with success:—

Nondweni, Insuze, Inhlasatje, Melmoth, Denny-Dalton, Coetzee's, Wieman's Rust, Van Rooyen's, M'Slonie [close to the Warm Baths], Pongola, Ngomo, Umtonganeni, and Ingotje, called Vryheid Kloudyk.

The largest portion of the district is adapted for agriculture and cattle breeding.

If some of the Australian and Canadian farmers were to come and settle down here they would do well.

The principal articles of commerce were wool, hides, grain, tobacco, waggon-wood, timber, and coal.

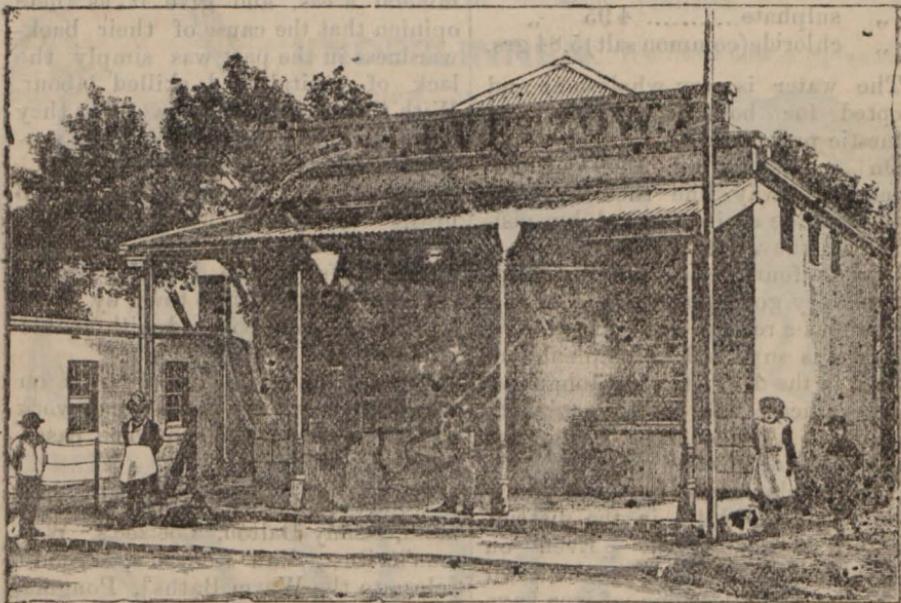
When the Vryheid Dundee railway is completed, we open out a rich portion of Zululand and bring ourselves in touch with the rest of South Africa.

The time may yet come when the

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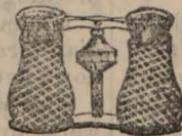


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Vryheid district as a mineral centre will be of immense value to South Africa in general and the British Empire in particular.

Viewed from an historical point of view the district of Vryheid is remarkable.

Zululand was without a doubt a bloodstained country. Several spots in the district could be pointed out where Zulu chiefs either killed in battle or massacred great numbers of their subjects in cold blood.

But the localities best known are where hundreds of white men and thousands of natives fell during the Zulu war, or in the course of the continual jealousies of Usibepu and Dini-zulu.

The spot where Commandant Piet Retief and his 61 delegates were so treacherously murdered by the Zulu King Dingaan in 1838, can still be seen.

Vechtkop, on the Bloodriver where the Zulus suffered a terrible defeat at the hands of the old "voortrekkers" who came to revenge the death of their murdered brethren at Dingaanstad.

Insoeji, where another, Piet Uys and his son were murdered by the Zulus.

Sandhlwana, the scene of a severe reverse to the British.

Rorke's Drift, the spot where a handful of British soldiers made so gallant a stand against thousands of savage foes. This brave and noble defence at the time thrilled the whole of South Africa.

Ulundi, where Cetewayo's savage army was finally smashed by the British. These places are all situated within this district.

Voenjaan, the place where the unfortunate Prince Napoleon fell, and the place where his grave is, are distant some six hours' ride on horseback from the town of Vryheid. The

late Queen Victoria had erected here a granite cross on which is the following inscription:—

This
Cross is erected
by
Queen Victoria
in
Affectionate remembrance
of

NAPOLEON EUGENIE LOUIS JEAN JOSEPH,
Prince Imperial,

To mark the spot where, while assisting in a reconnaissance with the British troops on the 1st June, 1879, he was attacked by a party of Zulus, and fell with his face to the foe.

Within a radius of 12 miles of the town of Vryheid, close to Waterfall, where Commandant - General Louis Botha used to dwell, are several localities of great interest.

First of all on Hlobane mountain, yet another Piet Uys and 100 British soldiers were killed, and half-way up the mountain-side a monument to his memory has been erected by his sons, bearing the following inscription:—

To the memory of our dear Father,
PETRUS LAFRAS UYS,
Who on this spot lost his life on the
28th of March, 1879,
at the age of 51 years 6 months
and 28 days.

He died fighting, as a hero; and the
hope that he lives at the right
hand of God comforts us in
our sorrow.

Erected by his four sons—P L Uys, J
J Uys, D C Uys, and C L Uys.

At the foot of this monument are
the ruins of the murdered Schroder's
Mission station.

To stand on Hlobane Hill and listen to an eye-witness describing the fight that took place there, is very thrilling and touching.

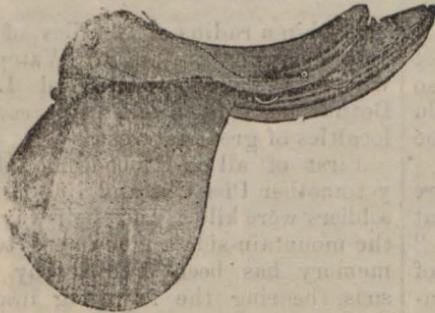
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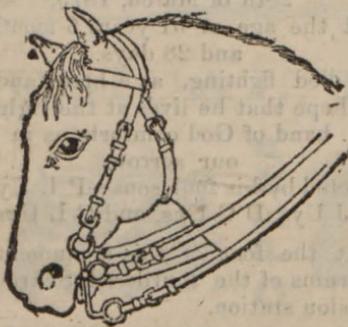
CLOTHS, WHIPS



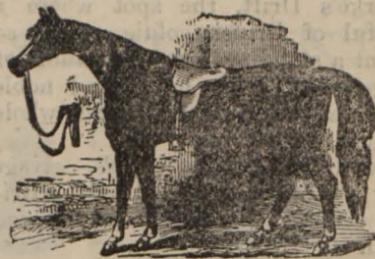
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He relates with emotion how one, perhaps, had suddenly been pounced upon and stabbed by a Kafir who was hiding in the long grass; while another fought to the bitter end against ten, twenty, or thirty enemies; and yet a third fled to the krantzes, hoping there to escape pursuit, but only to be either hunted down or to die of starvation in some crevice where he had hidden himself only too securely. This latter mode of escape was the cause of many a death. To this day numerous skeletons of human beings are still to be found among the rocks—striking proofs of the sad events of former days.

The battle of Hlobane, fought on March 28th, 1879, was the third reverse met with by the British during the Zulu War.

Hlobane is a precipitous hill rising out of the plain, and situated some 12 miles East from Vryheid.

Shortly before the fight it was reported by native scouts to the British troops, who were camped at Kambula, and under the command of Col. Wood, that the Zulus would occupy this important situation; and Colonel Buller, with some 500 mounted men and a number of Oham's people,—[a friendly native chief]—was despatched to occupy the hill.

He was accompanied by Piet Uys and his son, both of whom were opposed to the idea and prophesied danger.

The foot of Hlobane was easily reached, and the summit gained with but little fighting, though it was dangerous and weary time for both men and horses.

Shortly after reaching the summit the alarm was given that the Zulus were about, and firing commenced.

It was soon seen that the wily native had led them into a trap, and that fully 10,000 Zulus were surrounding the hill.

After a gallant struggle, a terrible fight for life set in, followed by a stampede down precipices and over huge boulders, dozens of men and horses being killed by falling on the rocks.

The few men who escaped, including Colonel Buller, were followed by the Zulus, but saved by a party of men sent out from Kambula.

Amongst the killed were Piet Uys, Captains the Honourable J.R. Campbell and Barton, Coldstream Guards, Mr Llewellyn Lloyd, Political Assistant; Colonel Weatherley and his son, and a greater portion of the Border Horse (men who had seen much service), and 29 non-commissioned officers and men of the Frontier Light Horse.

Piet Uys could have escaped but turned back to rescue his son, who succeeded in escaping, but his father losing his horse, fought with a revolver, his back to a rock, till assegaied through the heart. Thus perished a gallant Dutch pioneer and a true friend of the British.

Colonel Weatherley also turned back to save his son, a mere stripling, who had lost his horse. Placing the lad on the saddle before him, the gallant Colonel made a rush for safety, but being met by another body of Zulus, he was assegaied, gallantly fighting to the last, and fell on the body of his dead son.

The trap to decoy the troops to the summit of Hlobane is supposed to have been arranged by Umbelini, who was responsible for the attack at Intombi, though it was said he fell on Hlobane.

It was at Hlobane that General Sir Redvers Buller, received the Victoria Cross for his gallant conduct at the retreat from the hill on March 28th, 1879, in having assisted whilst hotly pursued by the Zulus, and at great risk of his life, in rescuing Captain G d'Arcy, of the Frontier Horse, who



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was retiring on foot. For the second time on the same day the noble General performed a similar act of bravery.

A curious narrative, connected with the fight at Hlobane, was related by Mr C Mossop, who owns a farm near Hlobane.

He was told by the natives living on his farm that a soldier fell into a crevice in the hill-side during the fight and continued in the cave for several days, and, though accosted by Kafirs, he would only fire at them till it was supposed death put an end to his sufferings.

On Mr Mossop making a search, he found the place described, and on descending into a roomy cavern, found the skeleton of a man with a rusty gun by his side. From the appearance of the bones of the leg, it was evident the right limb had been broken.

The bones were buried, and the gun, which bore a number, sent to head-quarters, but nothing more was heard of the affair. Probably the man belonged to one of the auxiliary troops of horsemen.

On the next day, March 29th 1879, information was brought in by Oham's scouts to the British camped at Kambula mountain, which lies 9 miles West of the town of Vryheid, that eight regiments of Zulus were prepared to attack Kambula, and preparations were made for a determined resistance.

At 1.30 o'clock p.m., four regiments under Umnyamana, the Prime Minister, were seen advancing in the form of a double horn, and from that hour to 5.30 o'clock p.m. the battle raged.

The Zulus never fought better than they did at Kambula, at one time actually jumping on to the wagons forming the laager, and even at times getting amongst the soldiers.

Again and again they were driven back by the gual fire of the 90th Regiment and the auxiliary forces, and finally, after one grand rush, turned and fled, being pursued by the mounted men.

It is calculated that the Zulu loss was 6,000 men, including several of Cetewayo's best generals.

The British loss was small, and Kambula may be considered the stepping-stone to General Sir Evelyn Wood's promotion in the British army.

Wide indeed was the experience of the whites in Zululand in those days, terrible the sufferings, long and severe the fighting, frightful the deaths.

Such was Zululand 20 years ago.

In 1887, what was left of Zululand, was declared British territory, with a Commissioner in charge, and Magistrates were appointed and a police force established; the Governor of Natal also acting for Zululand, under the direct control of the Imperial Government.

In 1888 King Dinizulu became very discontented, and serious disturbances took place, culminating in open revolt against the British.

That, however, did not last long; and after a short skirmish at the Ceza Bush, the King and his principal Chiefs were taken prisoners, and brought to trial at Eshowe on a charge of high treason.

Dinizulu, Undabuko, and Tshingaan were found guilty—the former was sentenced to ten and the two latter to twelve and fifteen years' imprisonment, and were deported to St Helena.

Dinizulu and his Chiefs were released by the British Government in 1897 and returned again to Zululand.

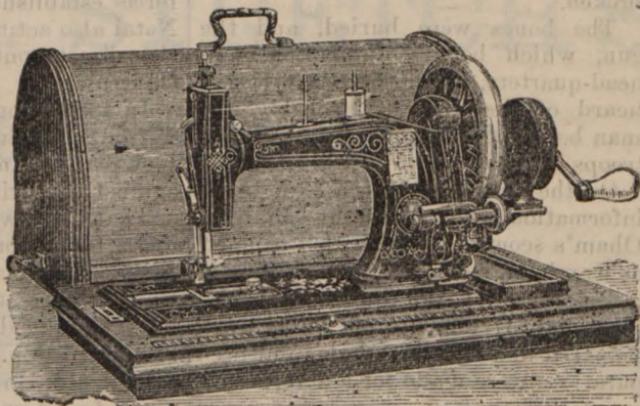
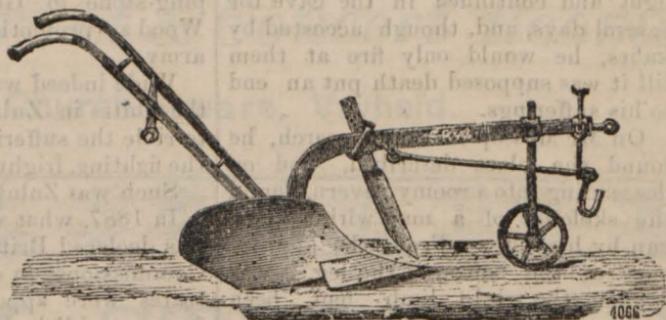
In the same year the country was annexed to Natal. Since then peace has reigned there.

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The Zulus are a very superstitious race.

The Zulu witch doctors in the country in former days had many a kraal "smelled-out." Even to this day they are still feared by the Zulus. These witch doctors are described with accuracy in two of Mr Riess Haggard's tales—"Alan's Wife," in "Nada, the Lily." In the former the witch doctor tells Mr Alan Quartermain that he is "able to make men see what they do not see"—by glamour, or hypnotic suggestion, apparently.

Other evidence will be found in the late Mr Leslie's privately printed work on the Zulus, among whom he was a missionary. The Zulu seers puzzled him as much as the Jossakeeds puzzled the early Jesuits in America and Hearne on the Copper River. Hearne saw things done which he knew to be impossible, he concluded that he did not see them, but he could not detect the method.

Some years ago, during Professor Kellar's stay in Zululand, with all his knowledge of sleight-of-hand and the science of illusion, he was entirely puzzled, mastered and convinced by a Zulu witch doctor who performed before him.

Mr Kellar also performed some of his own tricks before a large crowd of Zulus, amongst them were many witch doctors, in the late John Dunn's territory, which performance of magic and jugglery, caused the eyes of amazement to open wide and the hair to stand erect on the Zulu's head of imagination. He is a "Tagati" they all shouted out!

A Zulu conjurer was then induced to exhibit his art. He tied a knobkerrie, or round-headed club, to a short thong of raw hide. A young warrior did the same, and they stood about six feet apart from each other, whirling their knobkerries above their heads.

It was evening, and they stood in front of the camp fire.

When the clubs almost touched, sparks "passed, or appeared to pass, from one to the other. The third time this happened there was an explosion, the young man's knobkerrie was shattered to pieces, and he fell to the ground apparently lifeless."

The conjuror then waved long stalks of grass above the young man's head. The grass "seemed to ignite in its flight, and burned slowly, crackling audibly."

The conjuror then drew nearer, and waved the flaming grass gently over the recumbent figure, about a foot from the flesh.

"To my amazement the body slowly rose from the ground, and floated upward in the air to a height of about three feet, remaining in suspension and moving up and down, according as the passes of the burning grass were slower or faster."

As the grass burned down the figure sank, and after a few passes from the doctor, the young man leaped to his feet, none the worse.

These witch doctors have cured many a one from snake bites and other diseases. They operate only with herbs, roots, and barks of trees which grow in the country.

They are indeed a very clever and cunning class of men.

Zululand used to be a grand country for lion and tiger hunting.

Especially in the Bush country, lions abound and much exciting sport took place there.

The first experience of a gentleman with lions in this country some few years ago, is worth relating;—

"My party camped for the night in the Bushveldt. After a good feed, we turned in, fastening the horses to a picket rope tied between two trees.

At about two a.m. I was awakened by hearing a most fearful noise, and

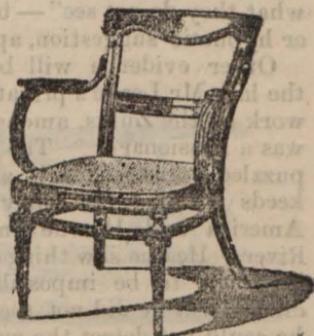
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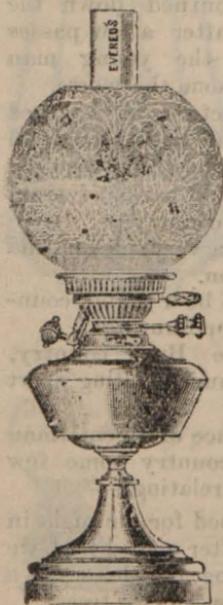
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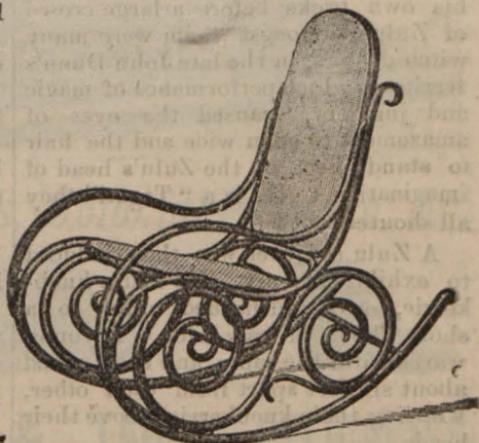
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this is what I saw. A lioness had hold of one of my niggers by the shoulder, and was just dragging him off from the fire within five paces of me.

In the meantime everybody was up, and I had seized my rifle and loaded it.

All this time the poor chap was uttering the most agonizing yells I ever heard, or wish to hear, whilst the lioness was simply eating him alive.

The first thing I remember doing was getting a bit of fire and throwing it in that direction in order to set the long grass on fire, and get light to shoot the brute. While I was trying to do this several others fired shots, but were of course afraid to aim "at the noise" in case of hitting the nigger. The next thing I remember was that somebody had lit a bull's eye, which I had somehow got into my hand; the owner afterwards told me I snatched it from him, saying, "Give it here." I don't remember anything except that I had it in my hand. Then I made straight for the noise, which was nearly freezing the marrow in my bones. I held the lantern in my left hand within two yards of the lioness, and the sight I saw——well, there was the wretched boy appealing to me for help, his scalp completely torn off his head; and the lioness chewing his shoulder and growling, and, upon my soul, you could hear the blood gurgling in her teeth; the ground one mass of blood, and the awful face of the poor fellow looking at the light. Of course he could not see me, as I was behind the light, but he never lost consciousness; "My - bah - boh," My - bah - boh," he seemed to say, and the terror of his bloodstained face I shall never forget till my dying day. Though this takes time to write, it all appeared to me in a few seconds. Directly I had the light on her I raised my gun on my right shoulder and shot her

through the side of the head, and then stood holding the lantern whilst the rest let fly, and it was not till they fired that the lioness let go her hold of the unfortunate man. Up to this time I don't think I realised the danger we were all in, but when the lioness jumped back into the long grass, perhaps only to spring on one of us, then I confess I felt a bit funky; however, I made a dash in, caught hold of the man's hand, and in another second had him in with us lying by the fire. He was fearfully wounded, his right shoulder completely mangled, his fingers broken in half, a large hole through one cheek, very badly bitten about the thighs, and, as I said before, completely scalped. You could not go six inches over his whole body that was not bitten or torn by the claws; with all this he never lost consciousness, but kept asking us to turn him round, put him nearer the fire, &c. At this time we were all standing round the fire talking, and listening to the wounded lioness growling in the long grass. Just then the horses, which had been quite quiet, seemed to show signs of restlessness, and there we all stood, guns loaded, with bated breath, when suddenly we heard a noise between a pig's grunt and a horse's snort, but could see nothing. I heard some one say, "It's only a horse." I said, "It's exactly like the noise the lion made." The words were hardly out of my mouth when the horses commenced plunging, and I walked towards them and just caught a glimpse of a lion springing off. I let fly, but I cannot say if I hit. Next the horses stampeded, with a lion on top of one. We managed, however, to secure a few of the horses and tied them round a big tree; then we stood listening to the lions and horses fighting. I must say we did not expect to see those horses again. I forgot to say that before the lions went for the

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horses one came uncomfortably close to us and received a volley which sent him away pretty quick. I fancy this was the wounded lioness, but cannot say for certain. The remainder of the night was spent in rekindling the fires round the camp, and this is how we did it. Two or three of us would light a lot of grass like a torch, one would put wood on the embers and make it flare up, whilst the remainder would cover us with their rifles. The lions came up pretty close several times during the night, as I could tell by the horses getting very restive whenever the lions came near them. And so the night passed, and never was dawn more wished for by me than on that occasion. As it began to appear, we heard the lions on all sides calling to each other, and answering, the wounded one groaning and roaring to its mates. As soon as we could see, two of us sallied forth after the wounded lioness, which we could hear was crawling towards a sluit. Shortly after we saw her again and put a volley into her and she disappeared among some large stones. As we ad-

vanced she crouched to charge us, and had just started when the other fellow put a beautiful bullet right into her head; this killed her on the spot. She had ten bullet wounds in her. We got her into camp, and left her to be skinned while we went to see if any of the horses had been killed. We saw marks of the struggle all over the place—blood, pieces of halter, riens, &c—but no horses. In one place we found a saddle torn to atoms; it had been taken by one of the lions from close to where we had all been standing, and nobody saw it or knew anything about it until we found the saddle, or rather the remains of it. The poor old Kafir died at 8 o'clock. Later in the day one of the lost horses was brought back, looking more like a hippopotamus than anything else, his face was so swollen, besides showing other wounds where the lion had had him. In the afternoon a few more were brought back but too badly wounded to be ridden home.

When we opened the body of the lioness she had not a single atom of food in her.

DIARY

OF THE

BOER WAR.

BRITISH VERSION.

1899.

OCTOBER 9, Transvaal Ultimatum presented. 10, British Agent instructed to apply for his passport. — 11, Ultimatum expired; War proclaimed. — 12, Natal invaded by the Boers; arm-

oured train derailed and shelled by Boers at Kraaipan. — 14, Newcastle occupied; fighting north of Mafeking, Boers suffering heavily; Boers march on Kimberley. — 19, Transvaal flag hoisted at Vryburg. — 20, Battle of Dundee; 4,000 Boers engaged; Gene-

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ral Symons mortally wounded (died Oct. 25); 21, Battle of Elandslaagte; British victory; General Koek mortally wounded; Colonel Schiel captured. 22, Boers under General Joubert overawing Dundee; town evacuated; General Yule's retreat. 23rd, Natal Martial Law enforced. 24th, Tinta Inyoni and Modder Spruit fights; attack on General Yule diverted. Dundee column arrives in Ladysmith. 25th, Gen Penn-Symon's death at Dundee; 26th, Bethune's Mounted Infantry formed; 27th, British victory over Boers at Kimberley; Boers concentrate on Ladysmith; 29th, First bombardment of Mafeking; 30th, Colesberg occupied by Boers; Disastrous reconnaissance from Ladysmith; 800 Irish Rifles, Gloucesters, and artillery captured through ammunition mules stampeding; arrival of Naval guns. 31st, First bombardment of Ladysmith; General Buller arrives in Capetown. 31st, Boers appear in Zululand.

NOVEMBER 1899.

2nd, First Australian troops arrive at Capetown.

2nd, Naval guns and "Long Tom" duel; Boer advance to Colenso heights; Ladysmith cut off; 3rd, Colenso evacuated; Boers defeated at Ladysmith; 4th, Joubert refuses leave for Ladysmith non-combatants. 5th, Non-combatants located at Intombi; 6th, Boers closing in on Kimberley; 7th, Ladysmith shelled all day; Major Taunton killed; 8th, Prisoners from Pretoria arrive at Ladysmith; 9th, Boer combined attack on Ladysmith; defeated at all points; "Roslin Castle" with first of Army Corps at Point, Durban; 10th, Boers demand Kimberley surrender; Kicketwick invites attack; Heavy fighting at Ladysmith; Pomeroy in Natal sacked by Boers and rebels; 11th, General White supplies General Joubert with medicines; Heavy fighting at Kimberley; 12th, Boers blow up railway line below Colenso; 14th, Joubert's flying column starts south; skirmish near Estcourt; 15th, Bayonet charge by Mafeking defenders; Chieveley armoured train smashed; Dublins and D.L.I.'s captured, with Winston Churchill; 16th, Ladysmith shelled; civilians killed at railway station; 18th, Weenen looted; Boers at Estcourt; flight of residents; panic at Maritzburg; Ladysmith shelled; Dr Stark killed at the Royal Hotel. 19th, Boer column at Highlands; others at Umsinga; Boer invasion of Transkei; Ladygrey captured; General French's

force advance to Naauwpoort; 20th, Mid-night shelling of Ladysmith; 21st, Estcourt cut off; Boer column at Mooi River; 22nd, Mooi River Camp shelled; Boers driven off by artillery; Ladysmith Town Hall struck by shell; Further shelling at Mooi River; Battle of Willow Grange; Boer defeat; Lord Methuen's victory at Belmont; 25th, General Buller arrives in Durban; Boers retreat from Mooi River to Colenso, and destroy bridges; Lord Methuen's victory at Graspan; Barkly East evacuated. 26th, Telegraph and railway communication with Estcourt restored; General Cronje and 4,000 Boers withdraw from Mafeking for Kimberley.

27th, First advance of British column in Natal. Mooi River to Estcourt; Boers concentrate at Colenso, commence entrenchments, mount big guns.

28th, Sortie from Kimberley; Major Scott Turner killed; 29th, Boers entrench at Stormberg.

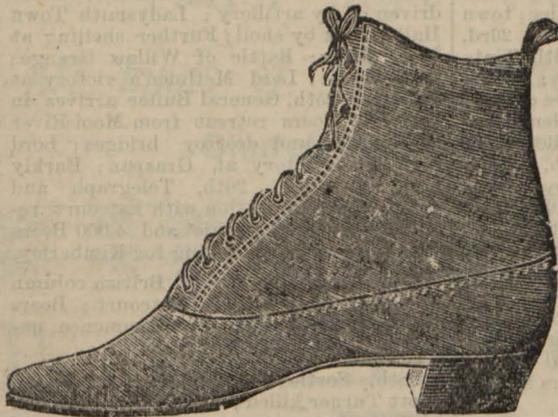
30th, Boers retreat to Colesberg before General French's advance to Arundel.

DECEMBER 1899.

6th, Chieveley burial ground consecrated; 7th, General Gatacre's outposts in action; Natal Carbineers surprise rebels; Night attack of N.C.'s, N.M.R., and I.L.H.'s from Ladysmith, under General Hunter. Boer big guns destroyed; Modder River bridge completed; 8th, Frere temporary bridge completed; Arundel occupied by General French; 9th, Lord Methuen resumes command of troops; 10th, General Gatacre's disastrous night attack on Stormberg; 600 British taken prisoners; Night attack of Rifle Brigade from Ladysmith, under Colonel Metcalfe; Boer big gun destroyed; Lord Methuen's defeat at Magersfontein; British loss, 900; General Wauchope killed; 12th, General Buller's advance to Chieveley; 13th, Naval guns shell Colenso heights; no response; Boers' attack on General French; fight all day; Boer repulse; General Buller's unsuccessful attack on Colenso; Colonel Long's artillery batteries captured by Boers; heavy British loss; 17th, Funeral of Lieut Roberts (son of Lord Roberts), at Chieveley; Lord Roberts appointed Commander-in-Chief of South Africa, with Lord Kitchener as Chief of Staff; 19th, British guns destroy Bulwer (Colenso) bridge; 20th, Affair of patrols near Chieveley; 22nd, Successful

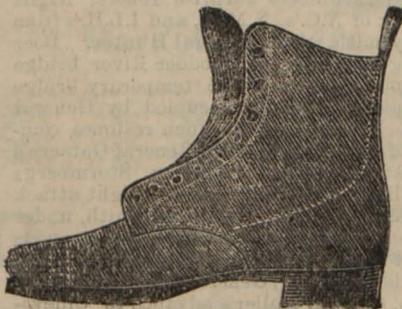
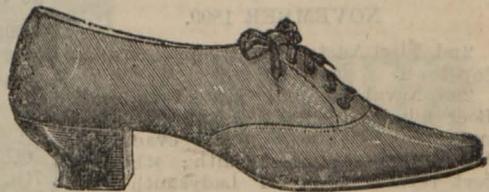
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Reconnaissance from Kimberley; Mafeking sitting tight; 23rd, Winston Churchill's return to Durban; escaped from Pretoria. Lord Roberts sails from Southampton; is subsequently joined by Lord Kitchener at Gibraltar; 25th, Capt Kirkwood, S.A.L.H., and Capt Grenfell, 10th Hussars, captured near Chieveley; 26th, Boer attack on Ladysmith repulsed; Sortie from Mafeking.

JANUARY 1900.

1st, British (Colonials) victory over rebels at Sunnyside; Douglas re-occupied by British; 2nd, Surrender of Kuruman's defenders, after a week's siege; 3rd, Boer attack and defeat at Molteno; General Brabant in action; 4th, Dordrecht retaken by Boers and rebels; 4th, Boers repulsed by General French at Rensburg; 6th, S.S. "Herzog" captured by H.M.S. "Thetis." British disaster near Rensburg; four companies of Suffolk Regiment surrounded and captured; Battle of Caesar's Camp, Ladysmith; heavy Boer repulse, after all day fighting; gallant charge of the Devons. 9th, General Warren's advance to Frere; Colonial Scouts column left Durban for Zululand; 10th, Roberts and Kitchener at Capetown. General French's attack on Boers at Slingsfontein; 11th, General Wood's reconnaissance into Free State from the Orange River; 16th, General Buller's renewed advance on the Boer Tugela positions; General Warren across the Tugela at Potgieter's Drift; Lord Dundonald's Cavalry engage Boers near Acton Homes. 17th, Boer positions at Colenso heavily shelled; no response. 20th, Mr G W Steevens died at Ladysmith. General Warren's force in action near Tabamnyama; 21st, Fighting renewed on the Tugela. 22nd, Further fighting. 23rd, News of Mafeking safety. Boers shell women's laager; child killed; 24th, Tabamnyama and Spion Kop captured; severe fighting; General Woodgate mortally wounded. 25th, Spion Kop abandoned by General Warren; General Buller resumes command of troops. 27th, General Brabant at Sterkstroom.

FEBRUARY 1900.

2nd, Boers blow up railway near Modder River. 3rd, Durban "Review and Critic" suppressed by Commandant. 5th, General Buller re-crossed the Tugela; attack and capture of Vaal Krantz. Battle of Koodoosberg; Boers driven off by Gene-

ral Macdonald's Brigade; 6th, Lords Roberts and Kitchener leave Capetown for Orange River; 7th, General Buller's third retreat from the Tugela; Battle of Penhoek; victory for General Brabant's force. General Buller returns to Chieveley; 12th, Lord Dundonald's reconnaissance to Hlangwane; Lord Roberts' invasion of the Free State; General Clements (succeeding General French) retires from Slingsfontein to Rensburg before Boer superior force; 13th, General French's forced cavalry march towards Kimberley; 14th, General French obstructed by Boers; advance continued; 15th, Kimberley relieved by General French, after a siege of 124 days; flight of General Cronje and the Boer forces from Magerfontein and Kimberley neighbourhood; 16th, Jacobsdal occupied. General French's pursuit of the Boers in the Free State; Klip Drift passage forced; five Boer laagers captured. 17th, Cronje's flying column sighted. 19th, General Buller's fourth attack on Boer Tugela entrenchments; heavy fighting; Hussar Hill and Cingolo Mountain captured. 20th, Fort Wylie and Hlangweni captured; Colenso re-occupied; British troops across the river; 21st, Cronje surrounded at Paardeberg; Boers from Ladysmith defeated and captured. 22nd, General advance of Buller's forces; further severe fighting at Grobler's Kloof, Barkly West, Jamestown, and Dordrecht, Cape Colony, occupied by British; Cronje invited to surrender but refused. 23rd, Desperate fighting at Pieter's Hill; Royal Irish Rifles decimated. 24th, Fighting renewed at Pieter's; 25th, Armistice between Buller and the Boers; night attack by the enemy; 26th, General Boer retreat from before Ladysmith; Naval guns bombard Boer positions; 27th, Final attack and capture of Railway Hill by Buller's forces; great Boer slaughter; siege of Ladysmith raised; Colesberg re-occupied by General Clements; 28th, Surrender of Cronje and 4,000 Boers; Lord Dundonald, with Natal Carbineers, N.M.R.'s I.L.H.'s, and detachments of other troops enter Ladysmith at 9.30 p.m. after isolation for 119 days.

MARCH 1900.

1st, General Buller's formal entry into Ladysmith; universal rejoicings; 2nd, Public holiday in Natal. Celebrations in Durban, Maritzburg, etc. 8th, Burghersdorp re-occupied by Brabant's force. 13th, Lord Roberts' entry of Bloemfontein, after

several engagements with the Boers; 15th, Barkly East re-occupied by General Brabant. 19th, Prieska re-occupied; 22nd, Griquatown occupied by Boers; 26th, Death of General Joubert in Pretoria. 28th, Fauresmith and Jagersfontein occupied by British. 29th, Fight at Karee siding. 30th, Disaster to Colonel Broadwood's force at Sanna's Post. 31st, Another British disaster at Reddersburg; total British losses in prisoners taken, several hundred.

APRIL 1900.

1st, Colonel Plumer defeated outside Mafeking. 3rd, Mass meetings throughout South Africa in support of Imperial policy; 4th, Cronje, Schiel, and 1,000 Boers exported to St Helena. 5th, Lord Methuen's expedition to Boshof; Boer mercenaries captured, General Mareuil killed. 9th, General Olivier's flying march to Wepener; Colonel Dalgetty's force attacked; 10th, Boer activity on the Biggarsberg; British camp at Elandslaagte shelled. General Gatacre recalled. 11th, Boer attack on Wepener repulsed. Free Staters return to Cape border; General Brabant's advance to Rouxville. 14th, Lord Roberts' protest to Kruger concerning treatment of prisoners. 15th, Basutos called out to guard border; 20th, New Free State police force organised by General Pretymann. 21st, Sir Alfred Milner's speech to loyal women at Capetown. 25th, Siege of Wepener abandoned; hurried retreat of commandoes. 26th, Johannesburg explosion; Begbie's foundry destroyed; great loss of life. 27th, Order expelling all Britishers from the Transvaal.

MAY 1900.

1st, Bayonet charge of Gordons outside Thabanchu. Lord Roberts' advance from Bloemfontein. 2nd, Battle of Hout Nek; British victory. 3rd, Lord Roberts' occupies Brandfort. 4th, Sensational publication of campaign despatches. 6th, Lord Roberts' advance; Smaldeal occupied. Occupation of Winburg and Thabanchu; Fourteen Streams evacuated by Boers. 10th, Battle of Sand River; Boer defeat. General Buller's advance from Ladysmith and Elandslaagte. 11th, Last Meeting of Pretoria Volksraad; Kruger's dramatic speech. 12th, Steyn's flight to Lindley. 13th, Kroonstad occupied by Lord Roberts without opposition; 14th, Mr Chamberlain's statement in the Commons; Colo-

nial peerages. Fight at Helpmakaar ridge; 15th, General Buller reoccupies Dundee without opposition; 16th, Glencoe and Dundee re-occupied; Biggarsberg evacuated by Boers. Final attack on Mafeking; Commandant Eloff and 118 prisoners captured. Transvaal invaded; Christians taken. Lindley occupied without opposition; flight of Steyn. 17th, Mafeking siege raised after 216 days; British flying column reaches Mafeking; Dannhauser re-occupied. Newcastle re-occupied. 19th, News of Mafeking relief; universal rejoicings. 20th, Women attempt to sjambok Kruger in Pretoria.

May 20th, Disaster to Bethune's Mounted Infantry; E Squadron ambuscaded outside Vryheid.—[This fight took place at Scheepersnek, about 7 miles from Vryheid. A monument has since been erected there by the Regiment.]

May 21st, Cape public holiday; Mafeking Day. 22nd, Natal public holiday; general rejoicings. 24th, Colonel Hime knighted (K.C.M.G.) Steyn arrives at Vrede, Orange Free State. Broadwood's Brigade reach the Vaal and seize Wonderfontein Drift. French's column crossed the Vaal at Lindque Drift; 25th, Hamilton's Division crosses the Vaal. 26th, The fight at Senekal; 28th, Free State annexed, and proclaimed at Bloemfontein the Orange River Colony; Lord Roberts enters the Transvaal at Viljoen's Drift; 29th, Germiston occupied; fighting in the streets; Utrecht surrendered; Lord Salisbury's speech on annexation; Heilbron occupied; Kruger's flight to Waterval; law and order committee appointed at Pretoria; Hamilton's fight west of Johannesburg; Boers cleared from ridges; 30th, Great fights with rebels at Kheis and Douglas; victories for troops; Battle of Doornkop; Boers driven into Johannesburg; Lord Roberts outside Johannesburg; twenty-four hours' grace granted; Battle outside Ficksburg; undecided; Heavy sentences on rebels at Newcastle; Lord Roberts enters Johannesburg; Union Jack hoisted on the Government buildings at noon. Capture of Yeomanry at Lindley.

JUNE 1900.

1st, Lord Methuen's chase and defeat of the enemy; Bond People's Congress at Graaff-Reinet; intemperate speeches; conciliation delegates appointed to go to England; 2nd, General Buller's negotiations at Ingogo with Christian Botha for

surrender; offer refused after three days' armistice. 5th, Lord Roberts enters Pretoria unopposed, after a severe fight at Six Mile Spruit; 6th, Durban festivities on Pretoria occupation; Fight with Boers at Botha's Pass; enemy driven out of Natal; Griquatown re-occupied by General Warren; 7th, Irish Yeomanry Battalion captured; 9th, Krugersdorp surrendered; De Wet captured two companies of C.I.V.'s and Yeomanry; six companies Derbyshire Militia; 11th, Lord Methuen defeated General De Wet; Battle of Allerman's Nek, Lang's Nek and Majuba evacuated by the Boers; 12, Fight with Botha near Pretoria; Boer defeat; General Buller at Volksrust; exchange congratulations with Natal Premier. 13th, Wakkerstroom surrendered; Collapse of Bond Ministry at the Cape; Sir Gordon Sprigg forms Progressive Cabinet; 15th, Natal Volunteers ordered back to Dundee; tribute from General Buller; 18th, Bond Congress at Paarl, Cape Colony, resolved to condemn Imperial policy, and to urge that the Republics retain their independence unimpaired; 19th, Potchefstroom occupied without opposition; 20th, Deportation of Hollanders from Transvaal resolved on; 3,000 ordered to East London. Pretoria High Court constituted; 21st, General Buller's troops at historic Paardekop; 22nd, Standerton occupied unopposed; historical flag hoisted; Kuruman's rebels surrendered to General Warren. De Wet's attack on Honingspruit; successful resistance by released prisoners; 23rd, Capture of Heidelberg; heavy fighting. General Rundle's cordon in Eastern Orange River Colony drawn; 24th, Fighting East of Pretoria; Lancers' charge; saving British guns. 25th, Return of foreign Attaches. Durban Chamber of Commerce protest against selected firms of Randites to return. Return of Lieut Anderton and Natal Naval Volunteers. Military Hospital scandals published. Battle of Senekal; Boer defeat; Boer Peace Delegation to America declared a failure; started for Europe. 27th, Arrest of J N F Botha, member for Aliwal North, charged with high treason (subsequently exonerated). Buller's Fund started. 28th, Bond women's meeting at Capetown; incendiary speeches. Commandant Snyman (Mafeking) captured outside Lichtenburg.

JULY 1900.

2nd. British magnanimity at Pretoria and the Rand; feeding Boer families.

Bachuanaland chiefs' reprisal on the Boers. 3rd Kruger's removal to Machadodorp. 4th, Steyn started from Bethlehem for Transvaal. Hollanders arrive in Durban for deportation. Natal and Transvaal columns join hands at Frankfort. 5th, De Wet's midnight attack on Ficksburg; attempted break of the military cordon. Post resumed with the Rand. Transvaal military police organised. 6th, 800 British prisoners including military prisoners put over the Berg into Natal; arrival at Acton Homes. 7th, Fighting at and capture of Bethlehem; Fight for possession of Rustenburg; opportune arrival of Australian force; Boer severe defeat. 9th, Free State officials surrendered at Heilbron; burgher deputation to Steyn to end war. 11th, British disaster at Uitval's Nek, near Pretoria; Scots Greys, Lincols, and 2 guns captured by Boers. Milner—Chamberlain warning against returning to Transvaal. 12th, Operations in Bethlehem district; General Rundle's success; Boer commandoes cooped up in the mountains. Supply trains and 200 Welsh Fusiliers captured at Roodeval by Boers. 17th, 1,000 arrests in Johannesburg; plot to aid the Boers. 18th, Capture of Commandant Van Dam in Swaziland. 20th, Fouriesberg occupied by General Hunter; Mrs Steyn found there. 21st, Boer defeat at Heidelberg. 22nd, Supply train and 100 Highlanders captured by Boers. 26th, Martial Law debate, Cape Parliament. 27th, Cost of war speech Imperial Parliament; £61,000,000 to February. 30th, Termination of General Hunter's Eastern Orange River Colony mountain operations; surrender of Commandant-General Prinsloo. Generals de Villiers, Crowther, and about 4,000 Boers. De Wet breaks the cordon with some followers.

AUGUST 1900.

4th, Capture of Harrismith. American Consul-General's train wrecked in Orange River Colony. General Carrington's unsuccessful expedition to relief of Elands River garrison; retreat to Mafeking; Zeerust garrison withdrawn.

7th, General Buller's further advance begun; Amersfoort reached after some opposition. Lord Methuen's chase of De Wet across the Vaal. Plot to kidnap and murder Lord Roberts and officers discovered in Johannesburg. 8th, General Warren's recall. Imperial Parliament closed; Queen's Speech on South Africa settlement. 11th, De Wet's rearguard overtaken and fought; one gun captured; De Wet turned back to Orange River Colony. 15th, Carolina occupied by General Buller in touch with General French. 17th, Opening of Pretoria Plot Court Martial; Cordua on trial. Field Day at Aldershot; Lord Wolseley's condemnation of officers. 21st, Conclusion of Court Martial; Cordua condemned on all counts. 23rd, Publication of compromising letters discovered in Boer Government Offices from Imperial and Cape M.P.'s. 24th, Cordua shot in Pretoria. 25th, Two companies of Liverpools ambushed at Geluk. 26th, Steyn joins Kruger at Machadodorp. Lord Methuen relieved Eland's River force; fighting round Mafeking. Boer attack on Winburg; Captured of General Olivier and other Boers by Queenstown Volunteers. 27th, General Buller's capture of Bergendal; heavy loss of Rand police. General Baden-Powell's fight with De Wet; Colonel Spreckley killed. 28th, Machadodorp, Waterval Boven and Waterval Onder captured by forces under General Buller and General French; Boers retired in confusion. 30th, Boers threaten Ladybrand; siege commence. Vigilance Conference at Capetown; Imperial policy approved; decision to send delegates to England. 31st, Kruger and Steyn removed to Nelspruit.

SEPTEMBER 1900.

1st, Lord Roberts' proclamation; annexation of the Transvaal. 2nd, Gen. Buller at Badfontein; preparing to attack Boers; enemy determined to make a last stand. 3rd, Theron's raid on Klip River railroad; raiders engaged by Marshall's horse. 5th, Siege of Ladybrand raised. Wakkerstroom re-occupied by British. Permanent forts started. 6th,

Natal Treason Court opened at Dundee; Vermaak's trial. Lydenburg occupied by General Buller's forces; Boer retreat to Belfast. 7th, Colonel Theron, notorious head of Boer Scouts, reported killed near Krugersdorp. Lydenburg shelled by Boers. Split among Orange River Colony burghers; North *versus* South. General Rundle struck by pom-pom shell; slightly wounded.

8th, General Baden-Powell appointed Chief of the Transvaal Police. General Buller engaged Boers in Lydenburg mountains; Mauchberg reached. 10th, General Buller reached Spitskop; captured Boer gun and enormous quantity of ammunition and foodstuffs. 11th, Ficksburg evacuated by British. Kruger and Executive crossed the border during night and reached Delagoa before daybreak; accommodated with Consul Pott; news of flight creates a sensation. Schalk Burger appointed Acting President; Commandant-General Louis Botha resigned; Ben Viljoen appointed Acting Commandant General Boer forces. 12th, Presentation to loyal Baralong chiefs, commemorating defence of Mafeking. General Baden-Powell feted in Capetown. 13th, Lord Roberts' last warning to irresponsible burghers in the field. General French seized and occupied Barberton, taking cavalry over the mountains. 14th, Kruger gives protection of Portuguese Governor-General; all visitors debarred; arrival of Mrs Kruger. 15th, Netherlands Railway taken official possession of by Lord Roberts. 16th, Boer main forces, under Commandant Gravett, left Pilgrim's Rest for the Belvedere Bush, northward. 17th, General French recovered 50 locomotives at Avoca, near Barberton. 18th, Mr Schreiner denounced by his constituency. Dundee treason trials: Vermaak sentenced to three years and £1,500 fine; nine other suspects indicted. 19th, Kruger accepts Netherlands offer of a passage to Europe on a Dutch warship. The Boer debacle at Komatipoort; big guns and Long Toms destroyed; 1,000 surrender to Portuguese.

After several skirmishes with General Hillyard's column, between

Utrecht and Vryheid, General Chris. Botha and his Commandoes evacuated Vryheid on the evening of September the 18th.

The same night, the Central Hotel in Vryheid (it had been used as a hospital during the war and occupied by the B.M.I. wounded prisoners-of-war from Scheepersnek) was burned to the ground.

On Wednesday, September 19, 1900, the 5th Division, under the Command of Lieut.-General Hillyard, C.B., occupied the town of Vryheid. The Union Jack was hoisted on the flag-staff at the Landdrost-Court, amidst much cheering from the townspeople.

20th—22nd, Hospital Commission in Durban; 21 witnesses examined. Conference Natal Vigilance Committees; Messrs Labistour and O'Meara elected delegates to England; visit subsequently postponed *sine die*. Hospital Commission in Maritzburg; sensational evidence. Final meeting Durban Women's Patriotic League. General Pole-Carew's advance, with mounted and infantry regiments, through jungle to Kaapmuiden; 19 engines, 114 trucks found damaged. 21st, Cape Treason Bill passed; Legislative Council adopted annexation resolution. 23rd, Lord Roberts announced his consent to the discharge of the Natal Volunteers from their war footing; General Buller concurred, conditional on 300 mounted men remaining in the field to end of war. Both Generals conveyed high praise of the Natal forces. Foreign mercenaries and Irish Brigade deserted the Boers at Komatipoort, surrendered to the Portuguese, and proceeded to Delagoa. 24th, Gnards Brigade, under General Pole-Carew, occupied Komatipoort; large amount of rolling stock and ammunition recovered; guns found damaged. Mr Sauer's Republican independence motion defeated in Cape Assembly. Dundee treason trials; Johannes Vermaak sentenced to two years imprisonment and £500 fine. Cape Parliament rejected Sauer's stop-the-war motion. Announcement of return of Natal Volunteers. 25th, Re-

duction of Transvaal garrisons commenced; New Zealand and 1st contingent Canadians sent off. 26th, Van Zutphen captured outside Harrismith. Railway traffic Delagoa - Pretoria reopened. 27th, General Buller crosses the Mac-Mac; Pass carried by Devons. 29th, Review of British troops at Komatipoort. 30th, Lord Roberts appointed Commander-in-Chief.

OCTOBER 1900.

1st, Returning Volunteers stopped; De Jager's Drift affair. Disastrous explosion of ammunition at Komatipoort; two British killed, several officers and men wounded. Boer Commandants conveyed to Delagoa; convinced of Kruger's flight; surrender of Dicksen, Berksen, and Oosthuisen. Reported assent of Rand Governor to refugees return; hopes disappointed. End of General Hart's long march to Krugersdorp. 2nd, Arrival of first civilian goods train on the Rand. General Buller captured Pilgrim's Rest; fight for Pilgrim's Hill; stormed by the South African Light Horse. 4th, General Baden-Powell's South African Police Force formed; orders issued. Koffyfontein held by 50 miners; besieged by 200 Boers. 5th, Total Boer prisoners reported by Lord Roberts to be 16,000. 6th, C.I.V.'s homeward bound, at Capetown; reception by Mayor; speech by High Commissioner. 7th, Departure of Naval Brigade from Pretoria; guns hauled 1,000 miles. 8rd, Boer deputation to Botha and De Wet to stop the war. Return of Volunteers to Durban; half holiday; general rejoicings; march through town from Congella. General Buller's departure from Machadodorp, *en route* to Pretoria and Natal; farewell ovation by troops. 10th, Durban Mayor's luncheon to returned Volunteers. 8th—12th, Festivities about Natal to returned Volunteers. 12th, South African League Congress, Mr Rhodes president; all anti-taal resolutions dropped. Sir Alfred Milner's journey to Bloemfontein and Pretoria.

12th—22nd, British enquiry into Transvaal Concessions; numerous scandals investigated, notably (Netherlands

Railway, Dynamite, Hatherley Distillery, and Selati Railway Concessions.

13th, Boers raiding and burning round Mafeking. 16th, General Buller enters Natal by train; delayed four days by Boers damaging the railway; addresses at Newcastle and Ladysmith; big reception at Maritzburg; General's important pacific speech. 18th, Boer attack on Jagersfontein; Seaforth Highlanders treacherously killed. 20th, General Buller in Durban; great popular demonstration, and triumphal progress through decorated thoroughfares; town and West Country addresses; speeches by the General; departure from Point, Durban, for Capetown. Kruger's departure from Delagoa on a tempestuous voyage. Talana celebration at Dundee; decoration of General Penn-Symons and soldiers graves. General Paget's negotiations with Botha to surrender; Botha declined, burghers unwilling; Steyn irconcilable. 21st, Bothaville (Orange River Colony) burnt down by British. General de Villiers' death at Bloemfontein. 23rd, General Buller in Capetown. 24th, Philippolis relieved; held against heavy odds several days by Imperial Yeomanry. Schreiner resigned his Malmesbury seat. General Paget captured 16,800 head of cattle; Koffyfontein relieved; no British casualties after month's siege. General Buller sails for England. 25th, Return of Philomel's Naval Brigade to Durban. Jagersfontein women deported for treachery. Waschbank Station burnt down by Boer raiders from Vryheid district; platelayer shot. Jacobsdal attacked by Boers; 14 Capetown Highlanders killed, 15 wounded; enemy defeated.

25th, Transvaal formally annexed; impressive ceremony at Pretoria.

29th, Death of Prince Christian Victor of enteric at Pretoria. C.I.V.'s at Home; extraordinary crowds in London streets; troops march to Mansion House in single file.

NOVEMBER 1900.

1st, Ventersburg burnt down by British for treachery of inhabitants.

2nd, Surrender of Reddersburg to

the Boers; 30 troops subsequently released.

3rd, Sir Alfred Milner's return to Capetown; expediting return of refugees.

DECEMBER 1900.

On December, 11th, 1900, a determined attack was made on the hill overlooking the town of Vryheid, known as the Lancaster Hill, by several Commandos of Boers, under the Command of Louis Botha.

The fighting commenced at 2 a.m., the Boers having moved into position during the night.

The Boers were at first successful in surprising a small piquet on a kopje lying to the N.W. of the main hill.

They afterwards attacked the Mounted Infantry Plateau.

The Mounted Infantry owing to superority in numbers on the Boer side were obliged to retire to some rough ground in the direction of the main hill.

While the fight was going on on the Mounted Infantry Plateau the Boers simultaneously attacked Maxim Hill, Barrow Point and the South gun. — (It was here Lieut Lippert got killed).

The piquet on Barrow Point retired and the position was occupied by the Boers.

On the other positions the Boers were driven back.

Lieut Woodgate of the Mounted Infantry was also mortally wounded during the fight there.

About 5 a.m. Lieut.-Col John M Gawne, who was both in command of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment and district Commissioner, went to the help of the Mounted In-

fantry, taking with him a company of Infantry from the town.

It was here, while successfully leading his men, that the brave Colonel fell mortally wounded. He died shortly afterwards.

Major Carlton then took command of the troops on the hill and Major Thorn was left in charge of those in town. These two British officers carried out their work in a very able manner.

A brisk rifle fire was kept up during the whole of the day aided by a heavy fire from the big guns.

Later in the day a plucky attempt was made on the South gun, the Boers coming within about 20 yards of the gun, but the fire from the British was too heavy for them.

The fight lasted until dusk when the Boers retired under the cover of the darkness.

A military funeral was accorded next day to the fallen officers and men, Major Thorn officiated.

As a mark of respect to the deceased Colonel Gawne's remains, the residents of the town, both English and Dutch, congregated at the military hospital to hear the funeral service read.

The bodies of the deceased officers and men were covered with many beautiful wreaths, which were sent by the townspeople as a token of sympathy.

The late Colonel Gawne took part in the Zulu War and knew this country well.

VRYHEID CHRISTMAS CONVOY.

A smile on the face of our comrades!

A thrill through the camp of joy!

To-morrow "Our Boys" move forward
Escorting a large convoy.

"Tommy" in Vryheid is weary,
Cut off from the world so long;
Wear taking something to cheer him,
To put everything right that's wrong.

De Jager's is reached in safety,
Mayhole is left in the rear:
We only think we are nearer—
Nearer with "Tommy's" cheer.

The following day Blood River,
Nearing the enemy's lines,
Volunteers their rifles are cleaning,
Slinging them "up to the nines."

Friday, the 14th sees us
Up ere the break of day;
The enemy mean to resist us,
We hope it is so, we say.

1st Royals on right, V.C.'s on left,
With N.P. in between,
Ride straight ahead for Scheeper's Nek,
Ready, and fearless, and keen.

On the right the firing commences,
And quickly along the line
The whole of the van engages—
Volunteers with "Tommys" combine.

The action is short and decisive,
The enemy's heels are seen
Galloping off in the distance
Over the rolling green.

On the left the fighting was heavy—
Deadly work had been done,
The enemy's forces numbering
Seven or eight to one.

'Twas there that two of our comrades,
Men who were staunch and true,
Side by side had conquered and died
Fighting with No. 2.*

Comrie, a tried old warrior,
McKellar, a fearless boy,
Had nobly fought and nobly died,
Escorting the large convoy.

A cloud on the face of our comrades,
A pang through the camp of grief;
But the fight was won—it was nobly done
And Vryheid had got relief.

*Corpl. P. Comrie and G. McKellar
were members of No. 2 Troop, No. 2
Squadron, Volunteer Composite Regiment.
ONE OF THE V.C.R.

JANUARY 1901.

On Thursday, January 17th, 1901, the 1st battalion South Lancashire Regiment (the old fighting 40th), under the command of Lieut.-Col. R. H. Hall, D.S.O., relieved the 2nd battalion King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment at Vryheid.

Captain B. R. Goren, of the 1st South Lancashire Regiment, was appointed Commandant of Vryheid, in place of Major Thorn, which responsible position he filled for a considerable time. He was relieved a few months ago by Capt. S. Upperton.

FEBRUARY. 1901.

In February 1901 Generals French and Dartnell's columns whilst passing through the district of Vryheid attacked the Boer Commandoes under Genl. Cheere Emmett in the bushveld (N'gomo) and captured a large number of horses, cattle and sheep.

AUGUST 1901.

Some scouts attached to Mr A Shepstone's Intelligence Department, Vryheid, having brought information that a party of Boers were sleeping on a farm, about three hours on horseback from the town, a detachment of the 1st South Lancashire Regt., under the command of Bt. Lt.-Col. Adam, left in the night, and made a smart capture. Eight Boers were taken prisoners, and some rifles, cattle, and sheep were captured.

SEPTEMBER 1901.

The disaster to Major Gough's Mounted Infantry took place at Blood River Poort, about 3 hours on horseback from Vryheid, on September 17th, 1901. It appears this small British force was on its way to Vryheid when they were suddenly attacked by a large Boer Commando under the Command of Louis Botha. The British, after a short and terrific

fight, surrendered to the Boers. The British losses were heavy, and two guns were captured by the Boers. Major Gough, who were amongst the prisoners, luckily, managed to escape. About 150 troops were subsequently released by the Boers, after being stripped of almost all their clothing, &c., (it was raining at the time and bitterly cold). In this cruel and almost naked state they arrived in town next day footsore and exhausted. However, the garrison of Vryheid, (South Lancashires) gave the poor refugees a hearty welcome,—clothing, food, &c., being at once issued out to them. Amongst the wounded brought to Vryheid were Major Dick. This brave officer died shortly afterwards.

HOW ITALA WAS HELD BY
THE 5th DIVISION M.I.

The gallant stand made by a handful of Britishers at Itala, Zululand, took place on September 26th, 1901.

The Itala Post was detached from the main body, and consisted of 40 men of South Lancashire and York and Lancs. Regt., under Lieut. Kane, 1st South Lancashire, and were reinforced later by about the same number, under Lieut. Lefroy.

Shortly after midnight they were attacked by about 1,500 Boers, and after a most desperate fight of about 20 minutes' duration, were forced to surrender.

Lieut. Kane was mortally wounded, and Lieut. Lefroy dangerously.

Lieut. Kane is reported to have died shouting "No surrender."

After the capture of Itala Post, the enemy then directed their attention to the camp, but were repulsed with heavy losses, after a most terrific fight, which lasted about 18 hours.

Amongst the many Boers that were killed at this fight, were several wellknown burghers of Vryheid — P. Scholtz and D. Louw jr.

The following poetry, composed by
Corpl. J. McL., 5th Division M.L., gives
a very interesting account of the
fight:—

One eve in the camp at Itala, when a
glorious moon shone bright,
The little force had manned their
defences and prepared for an attack
that night.

Our little garrison could not boast,
strong, three hundred at the most,
And eighty braves could ill be spared
for the defence of Itala Post.

'Twas midnight! Still, not a sound to
mar the stillness of the night,
But hark! a hurried whisper's passed,
the enemy are in sight!
On, on they come, with cautious tread,
their dark forms growing higher,
Quick as a flash, the order is given,
"Grasp rifles, but do not fire!"

With bayonets fixed, the Tommies await
the advance of their wily foe,
But a couple of luckless shots rang out,
Fate had decided so.
With tightened rein and spur in flank,
the Dutchmen scouts retreat,
Back to their brothers in rendezvous,
and the Commandant to meet.

'Tis now the calm before the storm,
our troops now know the worst,
And each one thinks, but does not speak,
to fall who shall be first.
Again they come, but multiplied; the
soldier, nothing daunted,
With clenched teeth confronts the foe,
as the Dutchmen wildly chanted.

The battle now is at its height, the
bullets fall like rain,
Yet amid the din, commands are heard
from "No Surrender Kane."
On front and flank the soldier falls,
but never once despairs.
"I'm shot!" groans Kane, "but never
mind me, for yourselves you have
only to care."

The soldier fights on, but what are such
few, 'gainst such a terrible host,
For the enemy have surrounded the
little band, and captured Itala Post.
Look! what are these two men riding,

in their soldierly forms unshaken,
The enemy have beaten our men off,
Sir, and the Itala it is taken.

Our leader, Major Chapman, spoke to
his officers in that hour of strife,
"I know that each of my lads can, and
will, hang on to his post with
his life."

The Boers, now confident of success,
press on with might and main;
They try to rush the little camp, but
are driven back again.

The conflict rages fierce and hot, till
four o'clock that morn;
Then the enemy's firing had gradually
ceased, and we anxiously waited
for dawn.

At last day breaks, and our cunning
foe have apparently disappeared,
And Collins' Native Scouts advance,
brave boys, who of death never
feared.

But scarcely have they ventured out,
when we see them ride hurriedly
back,

The enemy have only been waiting for
this, and with vigour renew the
attack.

Our little band, now greatly reduced,
with wounded and with slain;
But cheer up, lads, we've beat them
before, and with God's help will
do it again.

Throughout that day old England's
honour is upheld by her gallant
sons,

And the vow is taken along our line,
"They shall not take the guns!"

The wounded cry for water in a voice
of pitiful woe,

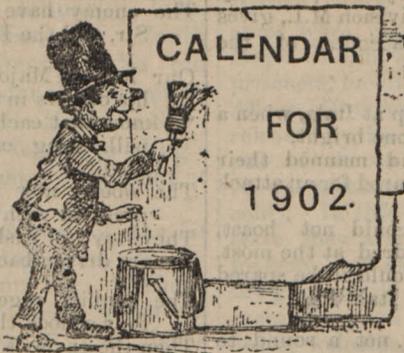
But the spruit that flows through the
camp has been dammed by a
treacherous foe.

At last night falls, the struggle is won,
and a welcome nightfall, too.

And the Boers have learnt another
lesson what a handful of British
can do.

All honour to the gallant lads of the
69th F.A.

Who fought side by side with their
infantry chums on that fateful
Itala day.



Wednesday, January 22nd, 1901, death of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

Friday, Jan. 24th, 1901, Edward VII, proclaimed King.

Quinquagesima Sunday, Feb 9th.

Ash Wednesday, (1st Day of Lent), Feb 12th.

St David's Day, March 1st.

King Edward VII, married, March 10th, 1863.

St Patrick's Day, March 17th.

Palm Sunday, March 23rd.

Lady Day (Quarter Day) March 25th.

Good Friday (Bank Holiday) March 28th.

Easter Day, March 30th.

Easter Monday, (Bank Holiday) March 31st.

St George's Day, April 23rd.

Ascension Day, May 8th.

Whit Sunday, May 18th.

Whit Monday, May 19th.

Late Queen Victoria's Birthday, May 24th. Born 1819.

Duchess Cornwall and York born May 26th, 1867.

Trinity Sunday, June 1st.

Duke of Cornwall and York born June 3rd, 1865.

Battle of Waterloo, June 18th.

St John Baptist's Day (Midsummer Quarter Day) June 24th.

Prince Edward of York born, June 23rd, 1894.

Lord Kitchener born June 24th 1850.

St Peter's Day (English Church, Vryheid, Delication) June 29th.

August Bank Holiday Aug. 5th.

Michaelmas (Quarter Day) Sept. 29th.

Lord Roberts, V.C., born Sept. 30th 1832.

Battle of Trafalgar, Oct. 21st.

All Saints' Day, November 1st.

King Edward VII, born 1841, November 9th.

St Andrew's Day, November 30.

Advent Sunday, Nov. 30th

H.M. Queen Alexandra born Dec. 1st, 1844.

General Sir Redvers Buller born Dec. 7th, 839.

Dingaans' Day, December 16th.

Christmas Day, December 25th.

Boxing Day, December 26th.

DIRECTORY.

SOUTH AFRICA.

High Commissioner for South Africa and Administrator of the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies — Lord Milner of Captown, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

Commander - in - Chief of H.M. troops in South Africa, Lord Kitchener of Khartoum.

Governor of the Cape of Good Hope — The Hon. Sir W. F. Hely-Hutchinson, G.C.M.G.

Governor of Natal — Sir H. E. McCallum, K.C.M.G.

Orange River Colony—(Deputy) Governor—Major H. J. Goold-Adams, C.B., C.M.G.

Colonial Agents — Cape of Good Hope, Sir David Tennant, K.C.M.G.; J. S. Brydges Todd, C.M.G., 112, Victoria-Street, London.

Natal. — Sir W. Peace, K.C.M.G., Agent-General; R. Russell, Sec., 26 Victoria-street, London.

VRYHEID.

Lt.-Col. R. H. Hall, D.S.O., 1st South Lancashire Regt., Commanding H.M. troops.

Mr Arthur J. Shepstone, R.M., of Vryheid.

Commandant of the town, Capt. S. Upperton, 1st S.L.Regt.

Mr H. L. Gebers, Public Prosecutor and Clerk.

Mr P. J. van Helden, Clerk.

MEDICAL. — Dr A Tren, District Surgeon, Church Street; Dr Chas J Davey, M.B., C.M., &c., &c., Church Street.

The military hospital here is in charge of Captain W. D. Erskine, R.A.M.C.

There are four religious communities in Vryheid: Church of England (St Peter's) Rev Hallows; Wesleyan Church, Mr W Harper; Dutch Reformed Church, Rev Andersen; and the Jewish Synagogue, Mr W Kantrowitch, Rabbi.

There is no Catholic Church here but the Rev Father Wurzburg, who is at present staying in Vryheid, holds services every Sunday in the building formerly used for the Young Ladies' Seminary.

A Church of England Day School has been opened in Vryheid—Master, Mr C. E. Carey-Brenten.

Vryheid Public Library and Reading Room, next to Mr Coppen's office, Church Street.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND (ST PETER'S), VRYHEID.

Sunday Services—Morning 11 a.m.; Evening 7 p.m. Sunday School 2.15 p.m.

WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH, VRYHEID.

Sunday Services—Morning 11 a.m.; Evening 7 p.m. Sunday School 2 p.m. All seats free.

A Military Telegraph and Post Office has been opened here. A mail leaves here for Dundee every week.

Jewish New Year 5663 commenced October 2nd, 1902.

A public hospital, in charge of the District Surgeon, has been formed in Vryheid.

Mr E. Steytler, Sanitary Inspector of Vryheid.

There are two Banks in Vryheid—Bank of Africa and National Bank.

ECLIPSES, 1902.

Of the Sun, 3; of the Moon, 2. 1. April 8th; Partial Eclipse of the Sun.

2. April 22nd. Total Eclipse of the Moon. Beginning visible in Asia, the East of Europe and Africa; the end in Europe, Asia and Africa. At London the Moon rises at 7h. 5m. p.m.

3. May 7th—8th. Partial Eclipse of the Sun. Visible in the South Pacific, New Zealand, and South of Tasmania.

4. October 17th. Total Eclipse of the Moon. Beginning visible in America and the Western parts of Europe and Africa; ending in America and the extreme North-east of Asia. At London the Moon sets at 6h. 32m. a.m., totally eclipsed.

5. October 31st. Partial Eclipse of the Sun. Visible in the Eastern parts of England and Scotland; in Europe, except the South and West; in Asia, except Arabia, Southern India, Siam and the North-east of China and Siberia.

LUCKY DAYS IN 1902.

The most fortunate days for birthday anniversaries, commencing important business projects, or making an agreement in 1902 are as follows:—

January 15th; February 8th and 14th; March 6th and 7th; April 3rd and 4th; May 1st, 4th, and 28th; June 2nd and 24th; July 2nd and 21st; August 1st, 17th and 31st; September 13th and 30th; October 11th and 30th; November 7th, 28th and 29th; December 5th and 30th.

UNLUCKY DAYS IN 1902.

The unlucky days for birthday anniversaries, or starting new business enterprises, are January 9, 11 and 23; February 9; March 5, 10, 12, 19 and 29; April 2, 17, 23 and 29; May 6, 7 and 26; June 4, 10, 22 and 23; July 3, 17 and 20; August 1, 5, 16 and 29; September 11, 12 and 27; October 9, 15 and 25; November 1, 6 and 23; Dec. 3, 13, 21, 24 and 31.

SEASONS, 1902.

Autumn commences March 21st; Winter June 22nd; Spring commences September 24th; Summer December 22nd.

CHRONOLOGICAL NOTES, 1902.

Golden Number 3. *Epact 21. Solar Cycle 7. Domin. Letter E. Roman Indiction 15. Julian Period 6615.

THE ROYAL FAMILY.

DATE OF BIRTH AND AGE IN 1902.

King Edward VII Nov. 9, 1841—61
 Queen Alexandra Dec. 1, 1844—58
 Duke of Cornwall
 and York June 3, 1865—37
 (Married July 6, 1893, to Princess Victoria May of Teck, born May 26, 1867).

Issue—

Edward Albert June 23, 1894—8
 Albert Frederick Dec. 14, 1895—7
 Victoria Alexandra April 25, 1897—5
 Henry William March 31, 1900—2
 Princess Louise Victoria
 Feb. 20, 1867—35

(Married July 27, 1889 to the Duke of Fife), 2 children

Princess Victoria July 6, 1868—34
 Princess Maud Charlotte

Nov. 26, 1869—33

(Married July 22, 1896, to Crown Prince Charles of Denmark).

The Princess Royal Nov. 21, 1840—62
 (late Empress Dowager of Germany)

Princess Helena May 25, 1846—56

Princess Louise Mar. 18, 1848—54

Duke of Connaught May 1, 1850—52

Princess Beatrice April 14, 1857—45

Coronation of Edward VII, King of England, will take place on June 28th, 1902.

Mr Joseph Chamberlain, born July 8th, 1836.

Mr Rudyard Kipling born Dec. 30th, 1865.

CALENDAR FOR 1902.

| JANUARY. | FEBRUARY. | MARCH. | APRIL. |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Sunday, 5 12 19 26 | S. 2 9 16 23 | S. 2 9 16 23 30 | S. 6 13 20 27 |
| Monday, 6 13 20 27 | M. 3 10 17 24 | M. 3 10 17 24 31 | M. 7 14 21 28 |
| Tuesday, 7 14 21 28 | T. 4 11 18 25 | T. 4 11 18 25 | T. 8 15 22 29 |
| Wednesday, 8 15 22 29 | W. 5 12 19 26 | W. 5 12 19 26 | W. 9 16 23 30 |
| Thursday, 9 16 23 30 | T. 6 13 20 27 | T. 6 13 20 27 | T. 3 10 17 24 |
| Friday, 3 10 17 24 31 | F. 7 14 21 28 | F. 7 14 21 28 | F. 4 11 18 25 |
| Saturday, 4 11 18 25 | S. 1 8 15 22 | S. 1 8 15 22 29 | S. 5 12 19 26 |
| MAY. | JUNE. | JULY. | AUGUST |
| Sunday, 4 11 18 25 | S. 1 8 15 22 29 | S. 6 13 20 27 | S. 3 10 17 24 31 |
| Monday, 5 12 19 26 | M. 2 9 16 23 30 | M. 7 14 21 28 | M. 4 11 18 25 |
| Tuesday, 6 13 20 27 | T. 3 10 17 24 | T. 1 8 15 22 29 | T. 5 12 19 26 |
| Wednesday, 7 14 21 28 | W. 4 11 18 25 | W. 2 9 16 23 30 | W. 6 13 20 27 |
| Thursday, 8 15 22 29 | T. 5 12 19 26 | T. 3 10 17 24 31 | T. 7 14 21 28 |
| Friday, 2 9 16 23 30 | F. 6 13 20 27 | F. 4 11 18 25 | F. 1 8 15 22 29 |
| Saturday, 3 10 17 24 31 | S. 7 14 21 28 | S. 5 12 19 26 | S. 2 9 16 23 30 |
| SEPTEMBER. | OCTOBER. | NOVEMBER. | DECEMBER. |
| Sunday, 7 14 21 28 | S. 5 12 19 26 | S. 2 9 16 23 30 | S. 7 14 21 28 |
| Monday, 8 15 22 29 | M. 6 13 20 27 | M. 3 10 17 24 | M. 1 8 15 22 29 |
| Tuesday, 2 9 16 23 30 | T. 7 14 21 28 | T. 4 11 18 25 | T. 2 9 16 23 30 |
| Wednesday, 3 10 17 24 | W. 1 8 15 22 29 | W. 5 12 19 26 | W. 3 10 17 24 31 |
| Thursday, 4 11 18 25 | T. 2 9 16 23 30 | T. 6 13 20 27 | T. 4 11 18 25 |
| Friday, 5 12 19 26 | F. 3 10 17 24 31 | F. 7 14 21 28 | F. 5 12 19 26 |
| Saturday, 6 13 20 27 | S. 4 11 18 25 | S. 1 8 15 22 29 | S. 6 13 20 27 |

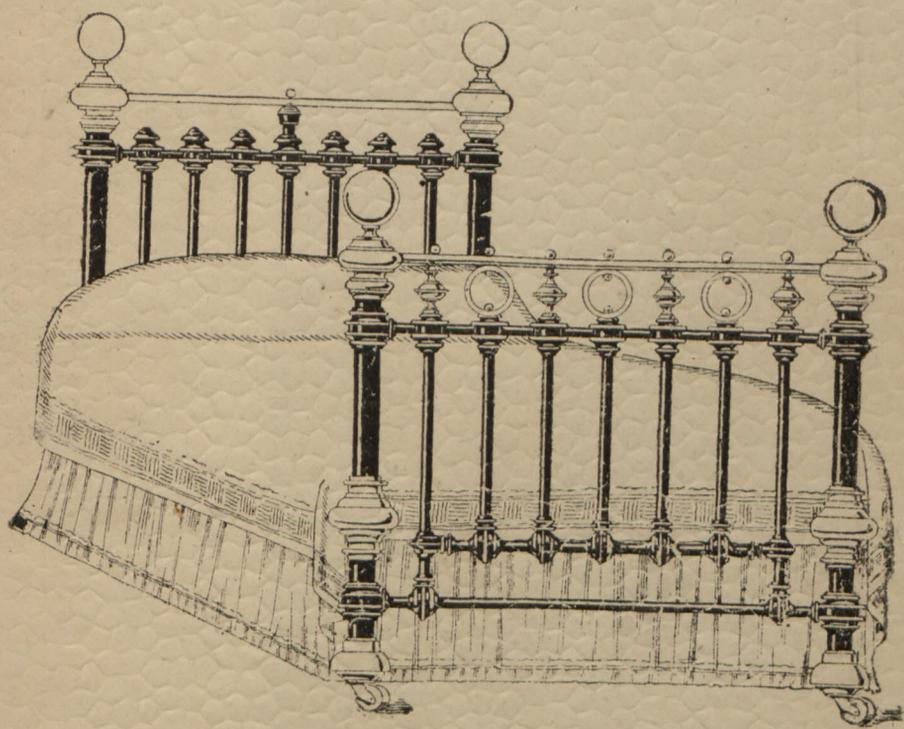
TIME ON SEAS RISING AND SETTING FOR 1902.

The above are in Gode Railway Time, which is 30 minutes Greenwich for Transit and 30 minutes.

164/677

HARVEY, GREENACRE & Co.,

CHURCH - SQUARE, VRYHEID.



Complete House Furnishers.