

In the course of an address by the Governor, he made note of the fact, and pointed out to them that they, the Imperial Bushmen's contingent, formed the first body of troops leaving under Imperial pay. He assured them that the sympathy not only of New South Wales, but of the whole Empire would be with them, and he wished them good luck, and a safe return.

VAST CROWD AND GREAT DEMONSTRATION.

Colonel Mackay, the popular leader of the contingent, together with his 750 men were cheered again and again by the thousands of spectators, as they approached the vessel that was to carry them to South Africa. The British war-ships lying in the harbor made quite a display, as did also the numerous steamers of the many companies trading to this port, and thus the shipping contributed nobly to the great national event. The spectators on the shore were multitudinous, and when, at near 6 o'clock, everything was in readiness, and the last whistle had sounded, there was great activity.

A crowd of small steamers accompanied the steamer *Armenian* to her anchorage, amid tremendous cheering and the music of several bands. It is estimated that over 300,000 persons witnessed their departure. As a token of German sympathy in the present struggle, the German steamer *Gera* was gaily decorated, and in the evening burned red fire, as the *Armenian* put to sea with the noble bushies.

On the battlefield these sons of the Empire, "Australia's best," have proved themselves equal to the demands made upon them; they have fought nobly, and at the time of writing two of these braves have been recommended for the Victoria Cross. Rudyard Kipling in a letter to J. B. Wellings, Esq., dated Capetown, April, 1900, says: "I had the pleasure of seeing some of your Sydney boys at work near Bloemfontein the other day, and they did it well."

Field Marshal Lord Roberts in a cable to the War Office published in London, May 7, stated that the Canadians, New South Wales, the New Zealand, and the Queensland Mounted Infantry vied with each other in their determination to close with the enemy