

SIEGE OF KUMASI

First Detailed Account by an Eye-Witness.

A Never-to-be-Forgotten March of Nearly Three Weeks.

Only Most Rapid Movements Enabled the Relief Force to Rescue the Garrison.

LONDON, Aug. 14.—Reuter's representative has had an interview with an officer who has just arrived from Kumasi. He was with the relief force, which fought its way from the north into the capital, was besieged with the governor in Kumasi itself, and was with those who succeeded in cutting their way out and only reached the coast after three days fighting. His narrative gives the first account of the siege of Kumasi by an eye-witness which has yet been published. Dealing first with the remarkable march from the north into Kumasi, the officer referred to said:

"On April 15 the first reports reached the British garrison at Gambia of the trouble with the Ashantis, and immediately Major A. Morris, D. S. O., the commissioner of the northern territories, who was in command at headquarters, commenced preparations to march to Kumasi, 340 miles to the south. In three days everything was in readiness, and the force, consisting of four officers, 170 Hausas of all ranks, a seven-pounder gun and a Maxim, set out for the south, Major Morris in command. The force marched along the narrow track in single file, the column being about a mile in length. Six days after we had left headquarters, urgent despatches were received from the governor, requesting Major Morris to proceed to his assistance at once. Pushing ahead with all speed, the force reached Kintampo, 238 miles from our starting place, and a hundred from Kumasi, in thirteen days, really a splendid performance, averaging seventeen miles a day.

"At half-past six on the morning of May 9 the reinforced column, which now consisted of seven white officers, 230 non-commissioned officers, and 1,000 native levies, under Major Morris, left Kintampo for Kumasi. Soon we got into the thick of the enemy's country. The deserted village of N'Quanta was burnt, and soon we exchanged shots with the enemy who retired rapidly. Two hours later we encountered their main body in ambush in the grass outside the large town of Sekedumasi. A galling fire was opened upon our advance guard, and our main body was ordered to action. The enemy bolted. Our march had been so rapid that the Ashantis, who lost heavily, were surprised. Our casualties were only three wounded. On May 14, two hours after we had destroyed one of the enemy's towns, our native levies became heavily engaged, having walked straight into an ambush. They fell back on our advance columns, and after heavy firing, in which we had twelve casualties, the Ashantis were driven off. The ambush had been very cleverly planned behind a great tree.

"May 15, the date of our arrival at Kumasi, was a day of incessant fighting, in the course of which Major Morris was severely wounded in the groin while leading an attack.

EARLY ON THE MORNING of the 15th scouts brought in word that a strong Ashanti ambush had been prepared in front of us, and shortly afterwards we saw an ugly stockade right across the road. The 7-pounder was at once brought into action to draw the enemy's fire, and in a few minutes the Ashantis replied with volleys from all directions. In about an hour the fusillade ceased, except from behind the stockade, which Major Morris decided much to be pushed without delay. The charge was ordered, Major Morris and Captain Maguire running ahead of their men. The former had not proceeded twenty yards before he was badly wounded, and fell in the road. The stockade was eventually taken, with the loss of Major Morris and fifteen Hausas wounded, and at three o'clock the same afternoon Kumasi was reached, Major Morris continuing to direct the operations from his hammock, although in intense pain, with intervals of unconsciousness.

"A second stockade was encountered 300 yards to the rear, on which even the 7-pounders had no effect, and scarcely had this been scaled before a third stockade was discovered. Our rapid advance had, however, entirely disconcerted the enemy, who had evidently prepared to strongly oppose us at that point. Kumasi was still some twelve miles distant. We continued our advance until we reached one of the investing stockades round the capital. To our great surprise, this particular one was not held at the moment of our arrival, and we got into Kumasi without further opposition. During the night fighting we had killed several hundred Ashantis, including a number of important chiefs.

"At three p. m., on May 15, to our great relief, we caught sight of the fort at Kumasi, and saw that the Union Jack was still flying from the flag-staff. A few minutes later Major Morris was receiving the congratulations of the besieged garrison on his splendid march from the north. We found that the town was invested on every side. For a radius of a mile round the fort, the Ashantis had erected very strong stockades, each communicating with the other by a path, so that every fort could be quickly reinforced. Each stockade faced our fort, was about six feet in height, and loopholed at the top. Behind these obstacles, which were made of great baulks of timber, the enemy were encamped. Having unsuccessfully attacked the fort already, the Ashantis now acted on the defensive rather than the offensive, so that within the radius of a mile the garrison were able to move about

Within this enclosure were a number of other buildings besides the fort. Three hundred yards distant were the Hausa lines, which were occupied and connected by entrenchments with the garrison. All the other buildings outside the fort were deserted, but within musketry range, the loyal native inhabitants were encamped in huts, while in the fort were the Governor and Lady Hodgson, three Basel missionaries and their wives, some mining engineers, and about half a dozen officers, the remainder being with their men in the Hausa lines.

AT THIS TIME THE TENSION

was not so great as it became later on, as relief from the coast was expected during the next fortnight. Both ammunition and food were, however, rapidly giving out, and soon we became very hard pressed indeed. At the time the column, with the governor, cut its way out, rations had been reduced to a biscuit and a half per day, and five ounces of meat. Nothing else of any description was to be had, and the native civilians were dying of starvation at the rate of thirty to forty a day. The few luxuries obtainable at the beginning of the siege were sold by the native traders at ridiculous prices. Biscuits, 10s. each; matches, 2s. a box; a 7 lb. tin of flour, 6s.; a small tin of corned beef, £2 10s.; whiskey, 2s. a spoonful, were some of the prices readily paid as long as these luxuries lasted, but these soon gave out. Our five ponies had to be killed for food, and on the day we were to march there was only three and a half days' rations on the minimum scale for the whole garrison. It thus became a question whether it would not be better to reduce the garrison to single file, the column being about a mile in length. Six days after we had left headquarters, urgent despatches were received from the governor, requesting Major Morris to proceed to his assistance at once. Pushing ahead with all speed, the force reached Kintampo, 238 miles from our starting place, and a hundred from Kumasi, in thirteen days, really a splendid performance, averaging seventeen miles a day.

"During this trying time the garrison managed to keep up their spirits, and the ladies displayed great powers of endurance.

"For some time after our arrival at Kumasi Major Morris was so ill that he had to direct the operations from his hammock. On May 29 Captain Maguire was shot during an attack at N'Timida, for the purpose of getting food, and was buried in the afternoon, the governor conducting the service. On May 30 a further reduction of rations was ordered, and every day matters steadily went from bad to worse until it was decided to partially evacuate the town. The road was eagerly watched by the enemy, but after infinite trouble Major Morris succeeded in discovering a track by which he hoped to be able to get out of the town. This was kept a close secret, and until ten o'clock on the night previous to the attempt it was not known that an attempt to get out was imminent.

"The column, under the command of Major Morris, moved out of Kumasi at five o'clock on the morning of Saturday, June 23. Fortunately there were no sentries posted on the main road, but the Governor and Lady Hodgson, the Basel missionaries and their wives, two mining engineers, and a number of officers, doctors, and others.

WE HAD WITH US 600 Hausas of all ranks. There were about 800 non-combatants and about 1,000 native civilians following behind the rear guard. The whole column was two miles in length, the ladies being in the centre surrounded by a special guard. An hour after the start, while wading through the swamps, the advance guard became engaged with the Patase stockade. Captain Leggett was severely wounded, and we had four men killed and nine wounded, but after heavy firing the stockade was turned by a flank attack. A road was cut through the stockade for the hammocks and loads, and as the force were on the run, it was of vital importance to push on before the enemy were reinforced. During the whole day we continually encountered bands of Ashantis. Fighting continued all day, and Captain Marshall and Dr. Graham were wounded.

"We halted eighteen miles from Kumasi, in the village of Tebereum, whence the Ashantis were driven after a few shots, and round which place we formed square. To increase our difficulties a terrific tornado broke upon us, and lasted throughout the night. The scene was a remarkable one. The rush of the water and the howling of the natives were incessant, while there were nearly 3,000 people packed within the square in a village not 120 yards in circumference. Next morning the water proceeded through the forest, and encamped for the night at Masiasu, thirty miles from Kumasi. Our rear guard had some fighting with the Ashantis, and lost six men killed and several wounded.

"During the next few days the advance through the dense jungle was most difficult, and the suffering of the wounded very great. Gradually we got out of the enemy's country, and it became increasingly plain that, owing to Major Morris's tactics, the enemy would not be able to catch us up. On June 28, Captain Marshall became worse, and in the evening of that day he died. He was buried in his hammock by the side of the track, Major Morris reading the service. On the following day Captain Leggett breathed his last. The sufferings of all, especially of the wounded, were terrible, and the swamps and deep rivers, together with the torrential rains, increased our hardships. It must be borne in mind that most of us had only the clothes we wore, as the carriers had lost our loads. Gradually, however, we got into friendly country, and all, more dead than alive, eventually reached Cape Coast on July 11, after a never-to-be-forgotten march of nearly three weeks from Kumasi."—Reuter.

NEW BRUNSWICK AND THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

An Appeal to New Brunswick Producers.

ST. JOHN, Aug. 24, 1900.

To the Editor of the Sun:

Sir—You have several times very kindly offered to publish anything which needed bringing into public notice in connection with bringing this province into prominence in Great Britain, in which I am now engaged on behalf of the New Brunswick government.

Taking advantage of this offer, I wish through your columns to call the attention of the people of New Brunswick, and especially of the producers, to a subject which I have already mentioned several times in the press. In the Daily Telegraph of July 18, and in the Gazette of July 26, in letters bearing on the work in question, I called attention, among other matters, to the New Brunswick exhibit in the Canadian section of the Imperial Institute, which the government has already begun to collect.

As the New Brunswick sub-section is perhaps the best situated in the Canadian section, being practically at the gateway of the whole division, and as the other Canadian provinces are getting together most creditable exhibits, we might be pardoned if the spirit of emulation which is the ultimate ambition of wishing to have the finest of all our provincial exhibits. If this is our ambition in the matter, and a most praiseworthy one it would be, we are luckily in a position to gratify it with Nova Scotia as a possible rival—as a matter of fact, these two maritime provinces have tremendously greater variety of resource than any other portion of the Dominion.

There is only one condition necessary to the success of the New Brunswick exhibit in the great Imperial museum and commercial intelligence bureau which is becoming such a practical feature in our connection with the mother country; it is that private firms and individuals turning out New Brunswick products should take a sufficient interest in the matter to furnish specimens of their manufactures, or, for that matter, entire independent exhibits. The government cannot be expected to furnish more than the exhibit of natural products, and it must depend largely on private firms to exhibit as a whole, and to furnish specimens of their manufactures, or, for that matter, entire independent exhibits. The government cannot be expected to furnish more than the exhibit of natural products, and it must depend largely on private firms to exhibit as a whole, and to furnish specimens of their manufactures, or, for that matter, entire independent exhibits.

In the beautiful and fashionable residential district of London known as South Kensington, near such celebrated public buildings as the Royal Albert Hall and the South Kensington division of the British Museum, but towering above and overshadowing them all in its grandeur, stands the magnificent structure known as the Imperial Institute, one of the most imposing buildings in England, or, for that matter, in the world.

This beautiful edifice, the result of the formulation of a statesmanlike plan, in which no one, from its very construction, is a more profound interest than the practical Englishman, His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, has been built but a few years, but already may be said to have done much toward practically assisting to knit more firmly than ever the bonds between Great Britain and her colonies.

least with its being a valuable exhibit. To take a case that I have quoted before: "The well known, 'seed' known as 'red grass,' which is found in such enormous quantities on the shores has never found any service in this province. Now, however, this same despised 'red grass,' dried and baled, is quoted as 'shillings f. o. b., Amsterdam, where the greatest supply comes from. No sooner did a Montreal firm put in an exhibit of it, a short time ago, than fourteen of fifteen enquiries came in at once to the commercial intelligence department. It is used in certain kinds of stuffing and packing. This is but a single instance.

The government, as I have said, proposes putting a thoroughly representative collection of natural products. This will include specimens of the various woods, with the exception of spruce, up to the present so little utilized; specimens of the various stones, etc., together with a representative collection of game, birds, fishes, and animals. These are to be supplemented with enlarged photographs of typical scenes and industrial operations, some of which are already in place.

I wish to appeal to firms and individuals to take this matter up, as have the firms and individuals of other provinces. I remember, for instance, in the Ontario section, that one of the most prominent exhibits is that of the Reuter Canning Co., which has a great quantity of attractive looking 'canned goods,' an enterprising Nova Scotia firm lately sent over an attractive exhibit of lobsters, put up in glass, and at once many inquiries as to price, etc., came in, one or two large firms refusing to take the exhibit because it was not produced in sufficiently large quantities. In the present traverse, called the New Brunswick exhibit, is a good specimen of our red granite, which is really finer than the famous Aberdeen variety.

A prominent dealer said that if it could be delivered in England at two shillings per cubic foot, rough square. But with no data at hand, we could not tell him whether it could be gotten for this price or not. These are but instances illustrating possibilities.

In the case of agricultural products, I should be pleased to get especially fine specimens from any farmer who would be good enough to prepare them for exhibition and forward them to St. John.

In the case of wood products, firms manufacturing various articles of mill, lumber or fittings would undoubtedly find an exhibit a profitable investment, and I should be glad to find the large pulp manufacturing firms willing to furnish specimens of their products in the various stages of manufacture, with lectures of mills, etc. A phase of the needs of the British market which has been brought prominently into notice through the Imperial Institute, and which directly affects wood manufactures, is that there is a great demand for parts of furniture of mill, or rough to British pattern out of our hard woods. This need is too important a one to be overlooked in this province.

With regard to the minerals and stones, prominent firms like the Hillborough company, with its unexcelled gypsum quarries, the Intercolonial Copper Co. at Dorchester, the granite company at St. Stephen, and others, could add much to the value of the exhibit.

PARIS LETTER.

A New Brunswicker's Impression of the Exposition.

You'll A Very Bitter Feeling Against Brits in the French City—No Place Like Good Old England.

PARIS, Aug. 14.—To far away New Brunswick my thoughts return to-night, and to the promise I made Col. Markham that I would give him my impressions of the Paris exposition. I almost regret now that I did so, because one taking such a hurried glance must necessarily be a poor observer, especially after spending several days touring on the Rhine and elsewhere, and arriving here with that tired feeling that can only be experienced by a sight-seer. I made my entrance to the show from the Monumental gate, Place de la Concorde, and from there visited the Fine Arts and Decorative Arts on the right bank of the Seine. These buildings are directly opposite the new bridge across the Seine, called Pont Alexandre III, in honor of the Czar of Russia, which in itself is a masterpiece of bridge building, which spans the river with two magnificent towers on each side. Directly opposite this bridge, on the left bank of the river, is the exhibition of the Industries of the World. These buildings form three sides of a rectangle and run back, abutting on the Invalides and close to Napoleon's tomb. From the river again to the left, some distance of one mile, will be found separate and distinct buildings of each country, all of the great Champ-de-Mars is reached, and here will be found the largest area of buildings which are devoted to literature, education, electricity, etc. At the entrance to this exhibit the Eiffel tower is the most conspicuous figure, carrying its loads of "ascensionists" to the top where all of Paris and surrounding country can be seen. From the tower we crossed the river again to find the colonies of the world—the French occupying one half the area, which ends at the Trocadero.

My steps, of course, were directed to the Canadian building, rather out of the way, but my tired feet were glad to rest in the shade of this structure, and I found it well worth a cup of good Canadian tea (a thing, by the way, you scarcely get on the continent) and to be waited upon by an English lassie from the colonies up the Seine to the point of entrance, the descending side is devoted to horticulture, and in the smallest part of the show. A constant throng of people are continually working their way over the above area, but notwithstanding the immense crowd, perfect order prevails. A travelling platform, costing about 10 million of francs, and a great number of the grounds. There are two of the platforms adjoining and running parallel to each other, and a great number of the travellers, dressed and undressed, without any stops at the turnstiles.

As a whole, I was particularly struck with the grandeur of the outside appearance of the buildings, all, or nearly all, of the light Parisian stone color, with beautiful glittering carvings and figures. A conservative estimate of the value inside these buildings is 100 millions of pounds. Electricity takes a leading place, every tower, dome and building being studded with lights of all colors. On certain nights all these lights are turned on, when it may be termed a fairy land. When the Shah of Persia paid his official visit to the show last week, a grand illumination of the Seine and buildings was held for his special benefit, and the sight was no never to be forgotten. To Americans whom I have conversed with, generally are of the opinion the exposition is a reproduction of the Chicago Fair, on a larger and grander scale, with the Eiffel tower thrown in as a central attraction.

To my mind the building devoted to the fine arts is the best and most representative of all nations, if one may be allowed to single out or particularize.

Canada's part in the exhibit is small, of course, in comparison with other nations and the building overshadowed by lesser colonies, and a visitor hurriedly viewing the exposition would probably never see it. The displays made by the C. P. R. and Grand Trunk are highly creditable. Sections of the sleeping and buffet cars are shown, and large maps exhibiting the country traversed by these lines. A good display of furs and animals is shown; also mounted fish, which look very unlike the real thing. The only exhibit I could see from New Brunswick, though there may be others, were stores from a Montreal firm.

I will not pretend to describe the exhibits in the other buildings, for in order to do so a person of youthful years would have to devote the rest of his natural life. All I can say is it is probably the best European countries and America can put up, and that is saying a good deal. I cannot pass just here without saying that in the industrial and mechanical departments that are shown by the United States is the most brilliant and best put up, and the keen American in charge of each section is more alive and more intelligent than any other people I have seen.

AT INGLESIDE.

Outing of the N. B. Natural History Society.

Addresses by Dr. Geo. F. Matthews, Prof. Ganong, A. W. Hickman and Dr. Hay.

The meeting of the Natural History Society, held at Dr. G. U. Hay's country home at Ingleside, Saturday afternoon, was an unusually interesting and instructive affair. The addresses were delivered in the grave, where the dense green foliage shielded all from the sun's rays. The pleasant surroundings added very much to the meeting.

Dr. Addy, the president of the society, gave a short address of welcome and called upon Dr. Geo. F. Matthews, who gave a brilliant lecture. He began by touching allusion to Sir William Dawson, who made the furtherance of science his life work and who has done so much for its advancement. He went on to speak of the changes which had been brought about by scientific research, tracing the growth of geology from its beginning down to that of the present day. Then in a clear, concise manner he described the topography of the country in and about Ingleside.

Prof. Ganong, formerly of St. Stephen, but now a professor in Smith's College, Mass., discussed the changes which have taken place in the methods of studying botany. Plants were first studied for their medicinal use. In the early days it was believed that every plant was specially adapted for a disease, and that each plant signified its use by some peculiar formation, as, for example, a heart-shaped leaf was intended to cure heart-disease. A considerable portion of our botanical nomenclature is derived from this idea. Later on there was a more accurate observation of the internal structure of plants. In 1800 Robert Hooke applied a microscope to the internal structure, and from the resemblance of the structure of cork to that of a honey-comb he gave the name cell, which has now become so universally used. Late in the last century one of those great times was met with in which they had found out that they were capable of with the means at their disposal. At the beginning of the present century, however, microscopes were improved, and spherical and chromatic aberrations were overcome. From 1850 to 1850 may be termed the golden age of botany. About two hundred years ago attention first began to be given to the subject of plant relationships. When Linnaeus began to study his subject, he grouped relationships of plants according to an artificial system, depending on the number of parts in a flower. Towards the close of the last century a more systematic classification was made. About 1850 the idea of evolution really received scientific status and explanation. Darwin first gave a scientific theory of how evolution could be brought about. This replaced the old idea that plants were all originated separately and established the fact that they had communicative origin. Dr. Ganong went on to discuss briefly the external anatomy of plants and the fundamental meanings of the color shape and size of different plants, explaining in a few words the significance of color in the plant kingdom.

Albert W. Hickman urged upon the members of the society the idea of making the area of land at the base of the Nepsisquit and Tobique rivers into a provincial park. There was every probability of this area being ravished by the lumberman and the pulp mills. Mr. Hickman spoke, as those who had spoken before him, of scientific progress. Now we can trace down life's beginning from man down to the little entity that lives, but concerning which it is and always will be probably a moot point whether it is a plant or an animal. Even so in geology we can trace down to the nebular theory. Hickman further more spoke of the great value natural history society may be to its country. Before sitting down, he called the attention of the members to the migration of birds.

Dr. Hay then spoke in glowing terms of those who had given such interesting speeches and emphasized the idea of preserving the New Brunswick forests and animals. Mr. McIntosh and Mr. Leavitt were called upon in turn, but excused themselves on the plea that they could not think of attempting to speak after hearing such learned discussions. Mr. Kain moved a vote of thanks in a few fitting words, Mr. Stoddard seconded it and the meeting of the society was closed, after which refreshments were partaken of and the party returned to their respective homes, delighted with the day's excursion.

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