

St. John Citizen Back From

Lady Smith.

Mr. Louis Levy, of No. 83 Simonds street, North End, came home Wednesday morning almost direct from South Africa. He has been there three years and five months and was all through the historic siege of Ladysmith. He enjoys a distinction because of this and many would be glad to have it to say that they had been of that gallant garrison. Mr. Levy is a Russian Jew, but for 12 years he made his home in St. John. He is the first man of Ladysmith to reach Canada and his advent is news of great interest. People did not know that St. John was represented in the South African town so gallantly defended by General Buller, but it was for, though of foreign birth, Mr. Levy is a St. John citizen and for five years has been a naturalized British subject, having secured his naturalization papers here.

Go to South Africa.

Mr. Levy talks English admirably and during his stay in the Transvaal and Cape Colony he also mastered the Dutch language. He told The Telegraph that some three and a half years ago he decided to give up his business in St. John and

He had heard and read of gold mining there and he felt that he would be able, by industry, energy and natural business ability, to lay by some money and establish himself and family comfortably for life. He had always been able to get along well here, but he saw opportunity for bettering himself and those dependent on him, and who is there who would not take hold of such opportunity? However, he sailed for South Africa and first made a stand in Cape Colony.

At first he found it necessary to go about the place peddling goods, turning his money thus made into more stock and doing very well. He was not long in the conditions of trade he would move his headquarters from place to place as his judgment directed. He opened up a general store at Cape Colony after a little and, altogether, remained in Cape Colony about a year and a half. Then he crossed the border into Natal and was for a time,

Established at Pietermaritzburg, the capital of that state, and also was once located at Dundee. At Pietermaritzburg he fell in with a group of men who were running a restaurant and doing a good business.

Inquiring into the conditions in other towns he learned that Ladysmith, which was to become such a historic place, was then known as the "Aldershot of South Africa," as many troops were there. From 4,000 to 5,000 troops, they told him, were always there. He saw a good chance to open a restaurant there and so he moved to Ladysmith and opened business in a one-story wooden building. His business was mostly the sale of ice cream and cold drinks, and the lemonade and beer was a good chance and business prospered. It was in June, 1899, that he started his restaurant there.

Then in November came the little town's troubles. The war had broken out and the Boers surrounded the place, and Ladysmith was in a state of siege.

Martial Law Rule, and General White was at the head of the place. There were there, said Mr. Levy, some 2,000 civilians and some 100 troops. Most of the civilians were British, there were some Natal Boers who were not unfriendly, and some of the natives were called, made up the balance.

There were plenty of provisions and the general stock was added to by appropriation by the authorities of the stock of groceries and all stores held by the merchants. Some of the grocery stores, he said, were bigger than any St. John boasts of. A representative of General White would call and demand the stores, a list would be made up and signed by a magistrate and the owner would be recompensed by the government.

Mr. Levy was able to continue business for a time, but the manufacturer who supplied him with his goods had to join the town guard and so discontinue manufacturing. Mr. Levy of necessity retired from trade also, but he had some stock and was called on to turn over to the general commissary. He neglected to make up his list and have a magistrate certify it and, therefore, received no recompense.

The Boers tried to hide their possessions and all manner of devices were tried by them to prevent loss of their goods. Floors were taken up and the goods hidden beneath and, when the officer would arrive the native would swear by "The All Holy Mohammed" that he had nothing. His oath was not considered as worth a great deal and search would be made and always with success.

Meantime the siege was being vigorously prosecuted by the Boers, and shells rained into the camp and people had to seek hiding places and abandon their homes. Many took to the trenches and there would be, whether day or night, no shelter till there was a cessation in the shelling. It was calculated that 90 shells a day were dropped into the town.

Many of the civilians were called on to do hospital work and Mr. Levy was one of the number. He was allowed \$5.61 a day. He was stationed at "Intombi" hospital, a few miles from the town, and where mostly enteric fever patients were treated, though some of the wounded in battle were cared for there also. The hospital was nearly always well supplied with food, though there were times when the appetite could not be satisfied because of a shortage. Being away from the town proper, he says he did not see very much suffering, and himself experienced none. He heard that towards the end of the siege horse flesh was being eaten in the town, but he did not actually know of this. Nor did he know that the water of the Klip river, which runs through the town, was rendered unfit for use, though he heard of that.

He remembered that a Boer named Bester had been captured by the British and charged with poisoning the water. He saw Bester and

Was Present When He Was Shot on this charge. The incident occurred in the camp, but so big a crowd was gathered that he did not actually see the man die, though he was present on the occasion.

He saw shells strike houses in the town but not a great deal of damage was done. Once a shell struck the steeple of the town hall, and demolished it, while cannons flashed and rifles cracked. There would come a lull in the firing and the shells would seem to be quiet. Then again, he said, "and I do not want to

see any more." The poor fellows would be wounded and disabled in every way. He has helped many times to bear them to the hospitals.

On many occasions he saw the heroic General White whom he described as a fine gentleman, greatly thought of and respected, and of relief had come to the garrison and Buller had entered the town, and White left for England he was accorded a great parade at Pietermaritzburg and other places he passed through. Mr. Levy was not in the town when

Buller's Relieving Army Arrived.

He was then on duty at the hospital. The crowd of men, then approaching and at first was taken to be an army of Boers, but, when the recognition came, there was tremendous enthusiasm among the besieged.

Through it all there had been the greatest difficulty in getting letters through to the outside world. Some success was attained and by means of Koffie runners, mails were occasionally sent out. For the risk he ran and the value of his service the Kaffir would receive \$5. He then had, at the risk of his life to run the way through the Boer pickets and Boer army, to the open country, across which he would speed his deliverer. Koffie runners were not to be trusted, and in charge where it could be forwarded. In this way Mr. Levy managed to get a couple of letters sent to his wife and she said she had received them. But letters from the outside for the garrison were never received. Mr. Levy says he had quite a number waiting him at Pietermaritzburg from his wife.

There Was Only Instance,

he said, of the Boers permitting their line to be crossed. Joubert was then in command of the Boers about Ladysmith. Within the town was a visiting Englishman, who was out seeing the war operations and he had been caught in the line. His wife was at Pietermaritzburg and a request was sent to Joubert to permit the woman to join her husband and attend to his wants. Joubert gave the required permission and the lady passed through the lines and entered the town.

After the siege was raised, Mr. Levy decided to depart from Ladysmith. He had to secure permission and a regular pass was given him. This he now holds as a souvenir of his part in the great siege. He showed it to The Telegraph man and this is a copy:

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Mr. Levy. J. R. YOUNG, Capt. R. C. R. S. O.

The letters "R. S. O." mean railway staff officer. The ticket which provided Mr. Levy with transportation reads as follows:

NATAL GOVERNMENT RY'S. LADYSMITH. Ladysmith to Ladysmith. Not transferable. SECOND CLASS. To Estcourt. To Estcourt.

A notable fellow passenger was on the train—none less than Dr. Jameson, famed in connection with Jameson's raid. He had been in Ladysmith with enteric fever and when the town was relieved he had to be removed to Durban. He looked, said Mr. Levy, more dead than alive. He had to be carried to the train on a stretcher.

The train pulled out and, from its windows, St. John's representative in what had been watched as one of the most thrilling and anxiety making incidents of the war, saw for the last time the gallantly defended and nobly relieved town. A difficulty was encountered.

At the Tugela river, so famous for its crossing by Buller and his brave troops. The bridge over this stretch of water had been destroyed by the Boers and had not been fully restored. Only a temporary walk had been made and no train could pass. The passengers had to leave the cars and walk across—those unable to walk being carried—and then take another train awaiting on the other side of the river. Then Mr. Levy proceeded to Estcourt.

At this place he established himself for a few weeks and became acquainted with a young Russian Jew named Jacob Resnick. The latter had been running a "dry-cleaning" and the two joined in partnership in the business. The dry-cleaning was a store attached to a regiment—in this case the Fourth Provisional Battalion—and was for the sale of goods to the soldiers. Permission to run it was given by the officer in charge and here is given a copy of such permission. Mr. Levy having saved it.

Scouts' Camp. Mr. Louis Levy who has dry goods tent in my lines. Pass within piquet lines. G. A. Mills. W. A. Voysey, Capt. G. A. Mills. Squadron, Col. Scouts.

A pass out of the town so that goods could be bought was also given as follows: "Return, 4th Provisional Battalion. Will you kindly grant a pass to and from Pietermaritzburg for Louis Levy to obtain dry-cleaning stores for keeper of dry-cleaning."

"Capt. Bishop, of the 4th Prov. Batt." After a little, Mr. Levy decided to return to St. John. He longed to see his wife and family and so set out by way of Durban. He sailed from there, Mr. Resnick accompanying him, on one of the Aberdeen Steamship Company's boats. They landed in Liverpool, went thence to London, from there came to Quebec and then to Halifax. There they came to St. John, arriving on Wednesday morning last. Feeling that his wife would be more anxious if she knew of his coming, Mr. Levy did not write till he reached Quebec. Then he sent a postal announcing his arrival in Canada, and a welcome surprise for home. "It was a welcome surprise," said Mrs. Levy when she learned that her husband was in Canada.

Mr. Resnick, who accompanied Mr. Levy, has never been here before. He was about three years in South Africa and speaks English but a little. He is all right in Dutch, though, he says. With Mr. Levy as interpreter, he told The Telegraph many things of interest not the least of which was an account of the

Speedy Delivery by General Joubert

at Standerton, just before war broke out and while minds were greatly disturbed over the conditions.

Joubert, addressing the Boers, according to Mr. Resnick's report, said: "If England wants one thing or two we will certainly give it to them, but it is not this, it is the country they want; and, before we'll take one of our towns, we had better have them shot off."

Mr. Resnick said he

Saw Kruger at Standerton

just before the opening of the war. Kruger at that time was passing through with Sir Alfred Milner.

Mr. Levy was asked his opinion of the Boers. He said: "I saw the Boer prisoners captured at Standerton. I also saw

and did business with Boers before the war. They are not as bad as they are ignorant. They think they are the smartest people on the earth, that they know everything and no one else knows any thing. When I started among them to peddle and compare my treatment with that I received among New Brunswicks farming people, I cried. The work of peddling among them was hard. Their houses were far apart and sometimes I had to crawl up mountains. I came to a house once and was kindly received and allowed to stay the night. I was questioned as to my nationality and said I was born in Russia, but had for years been a British subject. That was enough—I was turned out of the house. This, too, was the home of a Cape Colony Boer. The Boers hate all foreigners, but the English they hate the most.

As to the few Jewish people are taking in the war, both Mr. Levy and Mr. Resnick said many Russian Jews were fighting for Britain there. Some who had run from their native country to them they would not have to serve in the Russian army even in times of peace, threw themselves into the British cause. Many of these were fighting as volunteers. Many of these were fighting as volunteers. Many of these were fighting as volunteers. Many of these were fighting as volunteers.

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Congress substantially reaffirming the one sent a day or two ago, to the effect that he would be expected to do whatever should be necessary to protect the lives of Americans engaged in the war and to maintain the dignity of this government. He would be instructed to form no alliances with any government. It is understood here that the reports of the powers in Pekin will call in a body on the dowager empress and present the necessity of her taking immediate and vigorous action to suppress the rioters. It is assumed that Mr. Conger will join the other representatives.

A German View.

Berlin, June 8.—A German foreign office official made the following statement to a correspondent of the Associated Press today: "The foreign office has had no official communication from China for two days. Of the two wires connecting with Pekin one has been destroyed. It is of the utmost importance to the powers to preserve the other. It ought not to be difficult for the powers to keep open the railway to Pekin."

The foreign office does not know of any further plans by the powers to land marines. We have heard nothing to confirm the statement that the empress dowager sides with the Boers. From other sources it was ascertained that the German gunboat Illus has arrived with the Boers. The German gunboat Illus has arrived with the Boers. The German gunboat Illus has arrived with the Boers.

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Tremendous Gain in Canadian Revenue.

Ottawa, June 8.—(Special)—Canada's financial position for the eleven months of the fiscal year, ending May 31 last, is shown by returns issued by the finance department today. The revenue for that period shows a surplus over ordinary expenditure of \$12,531,563.

Improvement in revenue over the same period of last year is \$3,900,285, this is offset by a gain in expenditure of \$1,121,630, leaving a net increase of \$2,778,655. In capital expenditure there has been a decrease of \$947,247. For the eleven months the figures compared with 1899, are:

	1899.	1900.
Customs	\$22,965,600	\$25,918,113
Excise	8,834,662	9,049,122
Post office	2,899,466	2,780,260
Public works and railways	4,202,553	4,750,212
Miscellaneous	2,457,287	2,618,830
Total	\$41,208,559	\$45,107,144
Expenditure	\$31,433,551	\$32,575,581
Capital Expenditure	1899.	1900.
Public works, railroads, canals	\$4,202,553	\$4,980,505
Domestic loans	133,142	181,818
Railway subsidies	3,194,392	718,569
Military capital	285,852	173,047
South Africa contingent	N. W.	
T. rebellion	1,461	1,424
Total	\$7,787,708	\$7,228,491

For the month of May alone there was an increase in the revenue of over a quarter of a million dollars.

A New Source of Trouble in the East.

Yokohama, June 8.—More serious from a Japanese point of view than the rising of the Boers in China, is the sudden tension between Japan and Korea as the result of the protests of Japan against the torture and execution of political prisoners by the Korean government.

The Korean Emperor absolutely refused to grant an audience to the Japanese minister.

London, June 9.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Yokohama, describing the effect upon Japan of the refusal of the Korean Emperor to give an audience to the Japanese minister regarding the torture and execution of political suspects, says:

"The feeling here is exceedingly excited. It may not be possible for the government to keep it in check. It is thought here that Russian influence is behind the affront. The tone of the Japanese press is very bitter and grave developments are possible."

A Cuban Threat.

Havana, June 8.—El Cubano in today's issue says:

"The actions of the intervening government often contradicts the smooth words which promise independence. The Cubans are ready to translate their words into action and to go again into the woods if the United States government breaks its promise to deliver the island to them."

Official Arrives at Porto Rico.

San Juan, P. R., June 8.—Mr. William H. Hunt, secretary of state of Porto Rico, arrived today by the steamer Porto Rico, from New York. June 2. He will immediately begin the discharge of his duties. Governor Allen may leave for the United States about June 30, but no definite decision has been taken.

Small Assets.

New York, June 8.—The schedules of the insolvent bank and brokerage firm Seymour, Johnson & Co. were filed today in the Supreme Court and show the balance to be \$682,730; nominal assets, \$398,105; actual assets, \$447,328.

Indian Famine Relief.

New York, June 8.—The executive committee of the committee of 100 on Indian famine relief met at its chamber of commerce today. Contributions of nearly \$60,000 were reported, although the committee was formed only a month ago. A second intimation was called to Bombay after today's meeting.

Miss Maud Kenyon.