FIELD MARSHAL LORD ROBERTS,
Who Changed the Whole Complexion of the Campaign.

### SCHOOL CHILDREN'S EXCUSES.

School teachers get some curious written excuses for absence. One of them reads : "Mister sir, my Jason had to be late to-day. It is his bizness to milk our cow. She kicked Jase in the back to-day when he wasn't looking or thinking of her actin', so he thot his back was broke but it ain't. But it is black and blue, and the pane kept him late. We would get rid of that cow of we could. This is the fourth time she kicked Jase, but never kicked him late before. So excuse him for me." A girl absent for half a day brought the following satisfactory excuse :—"Mister teecher—My dotter's absence yesterday was unavoidable. Her shoes had to be half-soled, and she had a sore throte. Her konstitushun is delikit and if she is absent any more you can knew that it is en acount of unavodabel sickness or something else." A boy absent for half a day laid the following explanation on his master's desk :—"Dear sir, please excuse Harry. He went to grandpapa's funeral with me this forenoon. I have been promising him for several weeks that he might if he was good and he has been very good, so I kept my word."

### DIDN'T RECOGNIZE IT.

A distinguished judge has discovered that he still has something to learn in the direction of agriculture. He bought a farm recently, and finds special delight in walking about the place commenting on the condition of the crops, and in many ways showing his interest in his new possessions.

One evening during the summer he was strolling over the farm. The grass had been cut during the day—a very thin crop—and was lying on the ground to dry. The judge saw it, and calling his man, he said :

"It seems to me you are very careless. Why haven't you been more particular in raking up this hay ? Don't you see that you have left little dribblings all about ?"

For a minute the man stared, wondering if the judge were quizzing him. Then he replied :

"Little dribblings ! Why, man that's the crop !"

### A VALUABLE BOOK.

A very valuable book is a Hebrew Bible in the Vatican. In 1512 the Jews tried to buy it from Pope Julius II. for its weight in gold. It is so large and heavy that two men can hardly lift it.

### "WOODEN RUSSIA."

This name, says our consul at St. Petersburg, is familiarly applied to the vast forest areas of Russia in Europe, which cover 464,548,000 acres, or 36 per cent. of the entire area of the country. Yet some fear is felt that the country may be deforested through the carelessness of private owners, and the Government is considering steps for the protection of the forests. In Russia houses built of any other material than wood are almost unknown outside the cities, and wood constitutes the principal fuel.

### LONGEST OCEAN CABLE.

Before the end of the present year the work of laying the trans-Pacific cable to connect Canada with Australia and New Zealand will be begun by the British Government. The manufacture of the cable is in progress, and a new cable-laying steamer, the largest vessel of the kind afloat, is under construction. The longest span of the new cable will be 3,560 miles, between Vancouver Island and Fanning Island in mid-Pacific just north of the equator. The total length will be about 8,000 miles. The cable will touch the Fiji Islands and Norfolk Island, will reach Australia near Brisbane, and will cross thence to New Zealand.

### NOISES AND SNAKES.

It is a curious fact that there are certain kinds of noises which attract snakes. For instance, the whirr of the mowing machine, instead of scaring these reptiles, as might be supposed, seems both to allure and enrage them, and they almost invariably dart towards it, rearing themselves in front of the machine, which of course, promptly chops off their heads. In six months so many as 120 cobras alone have thus been slaughtered on one grass farm in India.

### MARRIAGE CUSTOM.

The Scandinavian bridegroom gives his betrothed a prayer-book and many other gifts, which usually include a goose. She, in return, gives him, especially in Sweden, a shirt, and this he invariably wears on his wedding day. Afterwards he lays it away, and under no circumstances of state or poverty will he wear it again while alive. But he wears it in his grave.

EX-PRESIDENT KRUGER,
The Man Who Was Primarily Responsible for the War.

# THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR

## Chronological History of the Thirty Month's Struggle.

1899.

Oct. 11—Time fixed by the Boers for compliance with their "ultimatum" expired at 5 p. m.

Oct. 14—Boers march on Kimberley and Mafeking.

Oct. 15—Kimberley isolated.

Oct. 20—Boer position on Talana Hill captured by the British under Symons.

Oct. 21—White moves out force under French to eject Boers from Elandslaagte. Boess routed.

Oct. 22—Yule retires from Dundee on Ladysmith via Beith.

Oct. 23—Death of General Symons at Dundee.

Oct. 30—General sortie from Ladysmith. Naval guns silence Boer siege artillery. Surrender of part of two battalions and a Mountain Battery at Nicholson's Nek.

Oct. 31—General Sir Redvess Buller lands at Cape Town.

Nov. 1—Boers invade Cape Colony.

Nov. 2—Ladysmith isolated.

Nov. 9—General attack on Ladysmith repulsed with heavy loss to Boers.

Nov. 15—Armored train wrecked by Boers near Chieveley. Over 100 British troops captured.

Nov. 19—Lord Methuen's column for the relief of Kimberley concentrated at Orange River.

Nov. 23—Methuen attacns Boers at Belmont with Guards Brigade and 9th Brigade. Boers driven from their position.

Nov. 25—Methuen attacks Boers in position at Enslin and dislodges them. General Sir Redvers Buller arrives in Natal.

Nov. 28—Methuen engages 11,000 Boers at Modder River. Battle lasting all day. Boers evacuate position.

Nov. 30—Sixth Division for South Africa notified.

Dec. 1—Australian and Canadian contingents leave Cape Town for the front.

Dec. 10—Gatacre attempts night attack on Stormberg, but is surprised and driven back with heavy loss.

Dec. 11—Methuen attacks Boer position at Magersfontein and is repulsed with heavy loss. General Wauchope killed.

Dec. 15—Buller advances from Chieveley against Boer positions near Colenso. British force repulsed on Tugela with 1,100 casualties and loss of 12 guns. Mobilization of Seventh Division ordered.

Dec. 18—Lord Roberts appointed Commander-in-Chief in South Africa, with Lord Kitchener as Chief-of-Staff.

Dec. 19—Regulations issued for employment of Yeomanry and Volunteers in South Africa.

Dec. 20—Formation of City of London Volunteer Corps for South Africa announced.

1900.

Jan. 6—Suffolk Regiment loses heavily near Rensburg, over 100 prisoners taken. Boer attack on Ladysmith repulsed.

Jan. 10—Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener arrive at Cape Town. Forward movement for relief of Ladysmith resumed.

Jan. 11—Dundonald seizes point on Tugela at Potgeiter's Drift.

Jan. 18.—Buller makes second attempt to relieve Ladysmith. Dundonald, having crossed Tugela, engages Boers near Acton Homes. Crossing of Tugela by Warren and Lyttleton concluded.

Jan. 21—Warren attacks Boers' right flank.

Jan. 23-24—Spion Kop captured and held during 24th, but evacuated on the night of Jan. 24-25. General Woodgate fatally wounded.

Jan. 26-27—Buller's force recrosses the Tugela.

Feb. 3—MacDonald with Highland Brigade marches out from Modder River.

Feb. 5—Buller's third attempt to relieve Ladysmith commenced. Lyttleton crosses Tugela, and delivers attack Vaal Krantz, which he captures and occupies.

Feb. 7—Vaal Krantz evacuated and British force withdrawn across Tugela.

Feb. 9—Lord Roberts arrives at Modder River.

Feb. 11—French, having been summoned from Southern frontier leaves Modder River with Cavalry Division and Horse Artillery.

Feb. 13—Lord Roberts at Dekiel's Drift.

Feb. 15—Lord Roberts at Jacobsdal. Relief of Kimberley.

Feb. 17—Rearguard action between Kelly-Kenny and Cronje en route to Bloemfontein. Fourth attempt to relieve Ladysmith. Buller presses advance on Monte Cristo Hill.

Feb. 19—Buller takes Hlangwane Hill.

Feb. 20—Boers under Cronje, having laagered near Paardeberg are bombarded by Lord Roberts.

Feb. 21—Fifth Division crosses Tugela.

Feb. 23—Buller unsuccessfully attacks Railway Hill.

Feb. 26—Buller makes fresh passage of Tugela.

Feb. 27—Cronje surrenders at Paardeberg. Pieter's Hill, the main Boer position between Ladysmith and the Tugela, carried by Hildyard.

Feb. 28—Relief of Ladysmith. Clements occupies Colesberg.

March 5—Gatacre occupies Stormberg. Brabant again defeats and pursues Boers. Overtures of peace made by Boer Presidents.

March 6—Field Force arrives at Carnavon to quell rising in North-West.

March 7—Lord Roberts defeats Boers at Driefontein.

March 11—Overtures of peace rejected by Lord Salisbury.

March 13—Lord Roberts, without further fighting, takes possession of Bloemfontein. Boers retire on Kroonstad.

March 27—Death of General Joubert.

March 31—Broadwood attacked at Waterworks. During retirement R. H.A. and convoy entrapped at Korn-Spruit. Six guns lost, 350 casualties.

April 3—Detachment of Royal Irish Rifles and Mounted Infantry surrounded near Reddersburg.

April 7—Colonel Dalgety isolated near Wepener.

April 15—Chermside leaves Reddersburg to relieve Wepener.

April 25—Dalgety relieved. Boers retreat northwards, under Botha.

May 10—Zand River crossed. Boers rapidly retreating before Lord Roberts' advance.

May 12—Lord Roberts enters Kroonstad without opposition. President Steyn having retired to Heilbron, which he proclaims his new capital. Attack on Mafeking repulsed, 108 Boer prisoners, including Commandant Eloff, taken.

May 13—Mahon with Mafeking Relief column repulses attack at Koodoosrand.

May 15—Buller occupies Dundee and Glencoe, having driven the Boers from the Biggarsberg. Plumer, reinforced by Canadians and Queenslanders from Carrington's division, joins hands with Mahon.

May 17-18—Relief of Mafeking.

May 24—Advance portion of Lord Roberts' force crosses the Vaal near Parys.

May 28—Annexation of Orange Free State under name of Orange River Colony formally proclaimed at Bloemfontein.

May 30—Flight of President Kruger from Pretoria.

May 31—British flag hoisted at Johannesburg. Surrender of 50th Yeomanry at Lindley.

June 2-4—Futile negotiations between Buller and Christian Botha for armistice.

June 5—Occupation of Pretoria.

June 8—Hildyard takes Botha's Pass. Surrender of 4th Derbyshires at Roodeval.

June 11—Stubborn fight at Alleman's Nek. Heavy Boer losses.

June 12—Boers evacuate Lang's Nek. Roberts defeats Botha at Diamond Hill, east of Pretoria.

June 14—Boer attack on Sand River repulsed.

July 4—Roberts and Buller join hands at Vlakfontein. Railway to Natal clear.

July 11—Surrender of Scots Greys and Lincolns at Uitval Nek.

July 21—Advance eastwards towards Komati Poort begins.

July 30—Surrender of Prinsloo and 3,000 Boers to Hunter in Brandwater Basin.

Aug. 16—Eland's River garrison relieved.

Aug. 25—Execution of Cordua for conspiracy to kidnap Lord Roberts.

Aug. 26-27—Fighting at Dalmanutha.

Aug. 30—British occupy Nooitgedacht and release 2,000 prisoners.

Sept. 6—Buller occupies Lydenburg.

Sept. 11—Kruger, flying from the Transvaal, takes refuge at Lorenzo Marques.

Sept. 13—Proclamation issued by Roberts calling on burghers to surrender. French occupies Barberton.

Sept. 25—British force occupies Komati Poort. Many Boers cross Portuguese frontier and surrender to Portuguese.

Oct. 9—De Wet driven across the Vaal out of Orange River Colony.

Oct. 19—Kruger sails from Lorenzo Marques for Marseilles on Dutch man-of-war.

Oct. 24—Buller sails from Cape Town for England.

Oct. 25—Formal annexation of South African Republic, to be styled Transvaal Colony.

Nov. 6—De Wet defeated at Bothaville.

Nov. 22—Kruger lands at Marseilles.

Nov. 23—Garrison at Dewetsdorp captured by De Wet.

Nov. 29—Lord Kitchener takes over supreme command.

Dec. 5—De Wet's first attempt to enter Cape Colony frustrated by Knox.

Dec. 11—Lord Roberts sails from Cape Town for England.

Dec. 13—Clements defeated with heavy loss by Delarey at Nooitgedacht. Mishap to Brabant's Horse at Zastron.

Dec. 14—De Wet and Steyn escape through Sprinkhaan's Pass.

Dec. 16-20—Boer Raid into Cape Colony.

Dec. 20—Martial law proclaimed over Northern districts of Cape Colony.

Dec. 22—War Office announce despatch of reinforcements to South Africa.

Dec. 28—De Wet fails in attempt to break back into Cape Colony. Cape raiders driven northwards.

Dec. 29—Surrender of Liverpools at Helvetia.

1901.

Jan. 1—Colonial Defence Force called out in Cape Colony.

Jan. 3—Defeat of bodyguard near Lindley by Botha.

Jan. 7—Determined Boer attack on Belfast and other stations on railway to Lorenzo Marques.

Jan. 18—Delarey's force defeated near Ventersburg.

Jan. 28—French enters Ermelo. Smith-Dorrien repels determined attack by Botha. Sweeping movement commences in South-eastern Transvaal, finally resulting in capture of eight guns, 734 prisoners and large quantities of ammunition, transport, cattle, etc.

Feb. 7—War Office announce despatch of additional 30,000 mounted troops.

GEN. LORD KITCHENER,
The Commander-in-Chief Through Whom the Peace Proposals Were Forwarded.

Feb. 10—De Wet slips through into Cape Colony.

Feb. 13—Botha writes to Kitchener proposing an interview.

Feb. 23—After desperate chase De Wet recrosses Orange river, having lost all guns, ammunition transport and many prisoners. Kitchener meets Botha in response to the Boer commandant's desire to confer with him with a view to peace negotiations.

March 3.—Unsuccessful attack by Delarey on Lichtenburg.

March 16—Botha breaks off negotiation.

Mar. 22-23—Babington routs Delarey at Ventersdorp and captures three guns and six Maxims.

April 8—Plumer occupies Pietersburg.

April 10—Civil jurisdiction resumed in Transvaal.

April 14—Rawlinson captures laager and two guns at Klerksdorp.

April 20—Winter operations in the Bush veldt begin. During following two weeks many small captures are almost daily reported.

May 8—Milner leaves Cape Town for England. Municipal Government started in Johannesburg.

May 24—Milner received by the King and raised to peerage.

May 29—Delarey defeated by Dixon at Vlakfontein.

June 2—Kritzinger captures Jamestown, Cape Colony.

June 6—Elliott engages De Wet near Reitz and captures his convoy.

June 12—Disaster to Victorians near Wilmansrust.

June 26—Boer attack on blockhouses along Delegoa railway.

July 4.—Train wrecked by Boers near Naboomspruit.

July 5—In reply to Botha's enquiries about ending war Kruger telegraphs to Botha to continue fighting.

July 13 — Broadwood surprises Reitz and captures Steyn's correspondence. Narrow escape of Steyn.

July 14—French drives Scheepers' commando with heavy loss out of Camdeboo Mountains.

July 20—Death of Mrs. Kruger.

July 30—W. Kitchener captures one gun, 32 prisoners, from B. Viljoen near Middelburg.

Aug. 1—Kitchener reports shooting of native prisoners by Boers.

Aug. 6—Proclamation by Lord Kitchener of permanent banishment from South Africa of all Boer leaders taken in arms after September 15.

Aug. 8—Commandant de Villiers and two field cornets surrender at Warmbaths.

Aug. 13—Kitchener reports the largest return of Boer losses yet made in a week. More than 800 prisoners, 700 wagons, and 33,000 cattle.

Aug. 13—Kritzinger's commandoes routed near Steynsburg by Colonel Gorringe.

Aug. 17—Boer laager near Middelburg captured by S. A. Constabulary with heavy loss.

Aug. 19—Duke of Cornwall lands at Cape Town.

Aug. 21—Kitchenerls despatch published commenting on inefficiency of certain reinforcements.

Aug. 25—Kitchener announces receipt of letters from Steyn, De Wet, and Botha declaring their intention to continue fighting.

Aug. 27—Lord Milner returns to South Africa.

Aug. 31—Train wrecked by Boers near Waterval.

Sept. 5—Lotter's commando captured by Colonel Scobell; Commandants Lotter and Breedt prisoners.

Sept. 10—Colonel Crabbe routs Scheepers' commando at Laingsburg, Van de Merwe killed.

Sept. 17—British force under Major Gough surprised near Utrecht. Smut's commando surprises 17th Lancers at Eland's River Poort.

Sept. 20—Kritzinger fails to force a crossing of the Orange River, after inflicting heavy loss on Lovat's Scouts.

Sept. 26—Botha's attack upon Forts Itala and Prospect, on the Zulu border, repulsed with severe loss.

Sept. 29—Proclamation issued at Pretoria, providing for sale of the properties of Boers still in the field, in accordance with previous proclamation.

Sept. 30—Delarey's attack upon Kekewich's camp at Moedwill beaten off with heavy loss on both sides. Martial law extended throughout Cape Colony.

1902.

Feb. 19—Canadian Mounted Rifles arrive in Durban.

March 7—Capture of Lord Methuen by party of Boers near Klerksdorp.

March 31—Gallant stand of Canadians in charge of the baggage at Hart's River. Canadians held their post, but lost eleven killed and forty-five wounded. In one section every man was either killed or wounded. This brave action elicits much favorable comment.

EX-PRESIDENT STEYN,
In Whose Hands Rested the Termination of the War.