

WHAT A SIEGE TRAIN IS. Description of the Armament to Reduce Pretoria.

FORMIDABLE DEATH-DEALERS.

The great siege train now in South Africa, says the Natal News, consists of two companies of Garrison artillery, 15 Southern and 15 Western. It is commanded by Lieut. Colonel Forman, whose Adjutant is Captain Currie, of the School of Gunnery, Shoeburyness. The Southern, being a double company, number 300 of all ranks, and the Western 180. The former are armed with eight 6-inch Howitzers, mounted on field carriages, and firing 118 lb. Lydite shells. These weapons have an enormous range. They are sighted up to 8,500 yards, but if necessary, with a special charge, they can be used with effect at a distance of seven miles. The latter are equipped with a 4.7 inch quick-firer, carrying a 45-lb. Lydite shell, and having a range greater than that of the howitzers. These 4.7 weapons have heavy guns, but have been fitted to a special carriage, which will enable them to be used either for siege work or as field guns. Either is capable of firing six or seven rounds per minute, and can be handled by a detachment of seven men, or, in the event of casualties, by four. With the guns of the siege train, the only object is to reduce the position of the Boers. As to the personnel of the two companies, every gunner is a highly trained and expert artilleryman, and in point of physique, it would be difficult, if not actually impossible, to find a finer body of men in the British army. There are no recruits. The majority are old and tried soldiers, who have served in India, and a large number are reservists, who have returned to the colors. The siege-train gunners are of operations, well out of sight and range of the enemy, and proceed deliberately to make his preparations. He digs a huge pit, and once he has got his gun in it, and in position, it is a matter of indifference to him whether he can see his target or not. By means of instrument of marvellous delicacy and accuracy he can lay his gun to an inch on a perfectly invisible object six or seven miles away. He can tell exactly the effect of each shell, and being himself invisible, and using smokeless powder, he can rain death upon the enemy. It is almost impossible for the foe to locate him, and, even if they succeeded in doing so, it would not trouble the siege train gunners. Protected by the pit, out of which he fires into the air at an enormously high angle, he is quite safe from any efforts the enemy may make to dislodge him. The destructive power of Lydite, especially the grand work done by the Naval Brigade, is practically unknown to the Boers. The howitzers, with their 118-lb. shells, will prove an unpleasant revelation. Efforts to get into the position, and their fortified positions will be only death traps.

THE INSANE AND IDIOTIC.

Report for 1899 Shows a Decrease in Applications.

The annual report upon the asylums for insane and idiotic persons will be laid before the House of Commons. The report points out that during 1899 there were 711 applicants for admission to the asylums, as compared with 750 the previous year, a decrease of 48. The reduced number of admissions can be, in a measure, accounted for by the larger number remaining in charge elsewhere than in the Provincial asylums. For example, there were last year in Homecroft Retreat 15, in the Kingston Penitentiary 26, in the common jails 77, and the applications for admission to the asylums direct 92. Making the average for the last ten years, this is an increase of 64 provided for temporarily otherwise than in the asylums. During 1898 there were in daily residence 4,360 patients, and during last year 4,441, or an increase of 81. This number, added to the 64 provided for elsewhere than in the Provincial asylums, makes a total of 137, and these figures fairly represent the increased cases of the past year regarding asylum accommodation. There are 77 criminal lunatics in charge in the six Provincial asylums, guilty of offences, but acquitted by the courts on the ground of insanity. There are over 400 patients now in charge in the asylums who have homicidal tendencies of pronounced character, and, although not committed by the courts as criminals, are in many cases equally dangerous as the others, and are a menace to the safety of the patients generally. There are more than 300 epileptics also in the several institutions, many of whom could be much more satisfactorily cared for if domiciled in a separate asylum. The average rate of maintenance has been kept at the low rate of \$124.05 per annum. And in view of the fact that all the maintenance expenditure, together with the clothing for the indigent patients, is included in the outlay, it must be taken as evidence of the uniform system of economy in practice in the institutions. The revenue from the institutions shows a favorable result for the past year. During the year ending Sept. 30th, 1898, the sum of \$72,042.44 was received from 771 patients, while during the past year \$74,365.54 was received from 778 patients.

Advance in Higher Education.

The advanced stages of education are becoming more thickly crowded. Twenty-five years ago only .05 per cent. of the population was enrolled in the public high schools; now the percentage is 0.61—the number of such pupils having increased from 22,900 in 1876 to 449,800 in 1898. The number in private high schools has increased in the same time from 73,740 to 105,225—there having been a decrease relative in the population. This indicates a large measure of advance in the public high schools as preparatory schools for colleges over what was the case years ago.—Chicago Chronicle.

For the first time on record a Viceroy of India (Lord Curzon) is about to visit Assam, India's great tea garden. Lady Curzon, his wife, is accompanying him. It is understood that his object is to examine into the needs of the province regarding the tea industry.

FROM THE SOLDIERS' LETTERS.

Johannesburg Boers are Playing the Parts of Bandits.

A lance-corporal of D Company of the 1st Border Regiment, which is attached to the Irish Brigade in South Africa, in an interesting letter to his parents, says: "The roar of the cannon and the roll of musketry, both from us and the enemy, was deafening. Then it was the full reality of war came upon every man. Those of the wounded who were able to walk off the field were almost all smoking and cracking jokes. The Dublin Fusiliers are as brave a lot of fellows as ever put foot on a battlefield, and tell Uncle Bill he should be proud to belong to the country which has such good lads. When we got back everyone commenced a search for someone else. Almost everyone that you met inquired 'Have you seen so and so?' The first person I went in search of was Fred Smith. He was out of his tent when I went for him. I found him at the finish, and his first salute was, 'What, ho, Bill; we'll have a furlough yet.'"

RIFLE SHATTERED IN HIS HANDS.

Lance-Corporal A. G. Clifford, of the 15th Company, Grenadier Guards, writes to his parents, who live at Marsh Terrace, Cheltenham, as follows: "When we had the first battle at Belmont, I had my rifle hit in two places in my hands where my bullets struck it. I had some of the splinters go in one arm and leg and my face, but I got it all out. I have a splinter in my arm and all right again. I kept on the same as if nothing had happened, only covered with blood on my face, and I picked up a dead man's rifle, for mine was no good, of course."

ANOTHER HEROIC PIPER.

A despatch from Ladysmith dated January 21st, in the course of some interesting details of life in the beleaguered town, tells of the discovery of a second Piper Finlander in the person of Sergeant Kenneth McLeod, who, during the charge of the Gordon Highlanders at Elands Laagte, was struck by bullets in the arm and side, but continued to play and advise the Highlanders, nor did he desist from playing until his drum, chanter and windbag were smashed by bullets. McLeod comes from Lewis, now was formerly in the Seaforth Highlanders.

IN JOHANNESBURG.

A letter has been received from Johannesburg regarding the situation there. "I wish," says our correspondent, "you could see this place as it is now, and compare it with when you saw it last. What a change. There are scarcely 2,000 people all told. Robbery is the order of the day. You can see old Boers with their wives and gangs of Kaffirs taking handsome suits of furniture, pierglasses, brass beds, etc., away. It is a dastardly shame how bare faced robbery takes place in broad daylight, with not the slightest effort made to stop it. The police say it is no good running people in as the Boers will not convict, saying the owners should be in town looking after their goods and chattels. In the stores the same feeling prevails; if you want anything they (storekeepers) tell you to take it for if you pay them the official's commander the money. One firm had £1,000 commandeered; it was not good kicking, as we should have been arrested on a charge of high treason. The hospital exchange and churches are full of wounded and dying men, as are also all the large buildings in Pretoria. This is very unpleasant reading for those who have left their belongings behind in Johannesburg, and naturally as time goes on their anxiety is growing deeper. Nearly three months have now elapsed since the war started. When the refugees left the Transvaal not one of them but thought he would be back by this time. I have met many miners from Cape Town who put their valuables under the mines in the hope that they would be safe from the Boers there. But by his time another enemy will have demonstrated them—that is the water, which is bound to have risen and destroyed these valuables."

AT THE FRONT.

The following is an extract from a letter dated 28th December from a Government lad in the 1st Royal Scots under General Gatacre at Sterkstroom: "We were aroused at daybreak on Sunday morning by the boom of artillery which proved to be the Boers opening fire. The fight lasted five and a half hours, and our brave fellows had to retire, repulsed but not disgraced. Such a sight I can never forget. To see poor fellows being brought in wounded in arms and legs, while one chap had a bullet pierce his shoulder and writ as he was carried up the pile at the slope. I came across a young officer who had been shot through the lung and was bleeding to death. As I raised his beautiful curly head he opened his eyes and smiled wanly, saying: 'Never mind me, dear boy, it's all over with me.' I bathed his forehead with water, and as I was doing so he died. How I felt so terrible in all my life. With a big lump in my throat and a feeling of hatred against the Boers in my heart I felt as if all the fiends of hell had got hold of me. To make matters worse a terrific thunder-storm broke over us, and with only our thin khaki uniform on we were drenched to the skin. However, I did not mind a bit. I could only think of those dear boys lying in the trenches dead and dying. I cannot express my feelings on paper, but someone had blundered. Since then we have all come back to Sterkstroom, where we do nothing but dig trenches all day. At night to our tents or outpost duty. A very touching scene took place one night as we were going up country. A missionary and a lot of niggers turned out as we passed through the village, and sang in English the beautiful hymn 'God Be With You Till We Meet Again.' The heat, sand, and insects are terribly trying at times. I was brown on my return from Barry last summer, but I am black now. How it will all end God only knows, but it is evident that a lot of hard fought battles are before us; but, cheer up, there's a good time coming, when we'll come doubling home after knocking spots off the Boers."

A despatch from Lansing, Mich., says: "If there was ever any doubt about the proposed double track of the Grand Trunk from Port Huron to Chicago it was settled to-day by Attorney Stanley, who stated in unequalled terms that such was the purpose of the company. The bill extending the modus vivendi on the French treaty shore has passed the final stages in both Houses of the Newfoundland Legislature."

THE REAL BEEF TEA.

If Properly Made It Will Not "Jelly" When Cold.

"That's what you call good beef tea; just see how it has 'jelled' now it's cold," said an old lady recently, as she contemplated her macaroni with great satisfaction. But this is an old-time idea, and an error. No good beef tea can possibly "jelly" for this reason: It must not be, rather, should not be made from the gelatinous parts of the beef. Shin of beef is suitable for making stock for clear soup, but that is another matter. If shank is used at all it ought to be the top, where a thick piece of beef can be cut, but other parts are better—the round, or the roll of the black bone. Ask the butcher for a lean, tender steak; buy it as though it were to be cooked as steak, and exercise the same care in the selection, and the patient will reap the benefit.

Now, as to the mode of making the tea. It is a mistake to cut the beef in large pieces, or to let it boil for a long time. Scrape the meat fine and put it in a jar of cold water with a pinch of salt, to soak for an hour or more, if convenient. Then boil it in a double boiler, or in the jar, and set it in a saucepan of cold water; bring this to a boil and let it simmer two or three hours (the water in the saucepan, if the water in the jar is not changed). Then strain off the tea until nothing is left, but the meat. The brown, thick-looking particles that float about in the mixture, and should be left in the tea. So long as anything is cooked in a vessel set in another one containing water, the contents of the inner vessel cannot boil. This is the case with beef tea, as it should be. The quantity of the water added to the beef must be regulated by the strength required, but a pint to a pound is about the average. The soaking in cold water is most essential, as by this means the "goodness" is extracted.

Beef tea made by this method may not look so rich as the jelly-like substance once considered so desirable, but it is the "real beef tea," which physicians delight to find in the sick room when this diet is prescribed, as it is the tea that is quick in building up the system.

A DOCTOR'S EVIDENCE.

On a Very Important Matter Now Before the Public.

Toronto, Feb. 22.—"It is laughable to read the claims put forward by many vendors of 'pills' for the cure of the disease known as kidney and bladder disease. The columns of stuff published in praise of these so-called remedies, show the writers' ignorance of the most elementary principles of medical science. It is a firmly-established fact that these diseases are due to the action of germs which literally eat away the substance of the kidneys. In order to cure the disease we must kill these germs. Now there is only one medicine on earth that does this, the germicide of disease. That is Dr. Arnold's English Toxin Pills which are the one positive cure for kidney and bladder troubles." So said a prominent physician, a specialist, yesterday. "I know a man, named Jones—J. Jones, who lives at 237 Elizabeth street," he continued. "He suffered horribly from kidney disease and bladder troubles. He consulted a physician's skill was of no avail to help him. He used all the so-called kidney cures, which proved totally useless. Finally he began using Dr. Arnold's English Toxin Pills, which speedily destroyed the germs that were eating away his kidneys. There is no other that kills disease germs—therefore there is no other that can be depended upon to cure disease." Dr. Arnold's English Toxin Pills, so highly recommended by this doctor as well as by all reliable druggists, are sold by a 75c box; sample box 25c, or sent post-paid on receipt of price, by the Arnold Chemical Co., Limited, Canada Life Building, 42 King street west, Toronto.

A Perfect Fit.

A young fellow on the South Side has a negro valet, an old-fashioned Southern darkey. Here, Jeff, I want those trousers made for me and pressed to-day," he said, pointing to a rather loud striped garment that Jeff had long had his eyes on. "All right, sah," said the darkey. "I'll bring you a pair of trousers, made to your size, and pressed to-day." "Did you try turpentine?" "Foh de Lawd; I done sacculated 'em oil turpentine." "Did you try coal oil?" "Yes, sah; 'oed a quart of de 'em." "Did you try a hot iron?" "Putty night 'bout 'em up." "Did you try benzine?" "Done tried benzine and kerosene, and all the other zine an' 'ain't took dat great spot." "You did you try 'em on?" queried the master, with a twinkle in his eyes. "Yes, sah," replied Jeff, with alacrity, "and dey's a puffet 'ere de spot 'an' all, sah."—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo.

Lucas County, ss. Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that he will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D., 1886.

A. W. GLEASON.

(Seal) Notary Public. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

Sold by druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Charles Howard, in behalf of himself and other stockholders of the Vermilion Mining Company of Ontario, is suing the Copper Company, the Anglo-American Company, Stevenson Burke, C. W. Blingham, Henry McIntosh, Chas. Baird and J. B. Wright, executors of the Cornell estate, and all stockholders of the Canadian Copper Company, for \$1,350,000 damages. Lieut. Miles Penner Cotton has been appointed as officer-in-charge of the Maxim guns of Scythoon's Horse.

THE WEST AGAIN.

A Gait Hotel Man Has a Word to Say About Dodd's Kidney Pills.

H. Hancock, of the Iroquois, Grateful Cure of Rheumatism, Back of Long Standing—Says Thanks are Due to Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Gait, Feb. 10.—Mr. H. Hancock, of this lively town, is known by the travelling fraternity all over the country as the joint proprietor with Mr. Wm. Sadler, of one of the finest Canada-day hotels in the Dominion of Ontario, and he is known further as one of the most genial and go-ahead hotel men in the country, his house being the equal in comfort and appointments of the average hotel of double the rates. It will interest the travelling fraternity to know that Mr. Hancock thoroughly endorses Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Some time ago guests of the Iroquois night gave notice that Mr. Hancock seemed to be troubled with backache. Indeed that gentleman of ten complained with great vigor about the pains and inconvenience it caused him. Well, all that is now of the past. Mr. Hancock is happy to announce that Dodd's Kidney Pills have cured him.

It cannot be too often impressed on the minds of those suffering with backache that it is the kidneys that are affected. The kidneys are internal, and external treatment cannot do any good. Liniments and oils can only soften the muscles, they do not reach the kidneys. Dodd's Kidney Pills are the only medicine in the world, simply because they act on the kidneys.

Where It Did Good.

Doctor—I see what the matter is. You do not sleep enough. Take this prescription to the druggist's.

Mr. Binkers: Thank you, I presume that's what the matter.

Doctor (next day)—Ah, good morning! You are looking much better today. Slept last night, didn't you?

Mr. Binkers: Slept like a top. I feel first rate.

Doctor—How many doses of that opiate did you take?

Mr. Binkers (in surprise)—I didn't take it. I gave it to the baby.—New York Weekly.

Minaard's Liniment cures Burns, etc.

Messrs. C. C. RICHARDS & CO., 54 Yarmouth, Ont. Gentlemen,—In January last, Francis Leclair, one of the men employed by me working in the lumber woods, had a tree fall on him, crushing him on the chest, and almost killing him fearfully. He was, when found, placed on a sled and taken home, where his grave fears were entertained for his recovery, his lips being badly bruised, and his body turned black from his ribs to his feet. We used MINAARD'S LINIMENT on him freely to deaden the pain, and with the use of three bottles he was completely cured and able to return to his work.—SAUVER DUVAL, Elgin Road, L'Islet Co., Que., May 26th, 1893.

What Salary He Was Earning.

"There is in the employ of our house," says a Philadelphia salesman, "a young man who is assistant bookkeeper. He is a steady chap, minds his own business and is as shrewd as they make them. The other day the senior partner of the firm, who seldom comes to work, made a tour of inspection, and as he approached the assistant bookkeeper he noticed the solemn expression on his face. Desiring to be congenial, he said: 'How are you getting on, my boy? You are at your work. That is good. Close attention to business will always bring its own reward. Tell me, what are you earning now, my boy?' 'The young man, without a moment's hesitation, answered: 'Twenty dollars, sir, but I only get half of that.'—New York Tribune.

Minaard's Liniment relieves Neuralgia.

Odds in Office Hours. A stable lad was taken ill, and a friend gave him the address of a doctor. He went to him and had some back shortly and reported progress. "I've got some medicine," said he, "but I'm blowed if I went to that doctor or not." "Why?" asked his friend. "Well," replied the boy, "I was just about to go in, when I saw on the doorpost the name 'Dr. X' and below it '10 to 1.' When I saw that I said to myself, 'I'll be hanged if I take any such risks as that.' So I went two doors further, and saw another plate, with 'Dr. Y' and below it '3 to 5.' The odds were shorter and I went to him."

Check that Cough.

with BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES.

If the child is restless at night, has coated tongue, sallow complexion, a dose of Miller's Worm Powders is what is required; pleasant, harmless.

Kept Her Word.

"Miss Tenspot always declared that she wouldn't marry an angel from heaven," announced Mrs. Gazzam, "and yet she is actually engaged to marry young Mr. Skidmore." Commented Mr. Gazzam. "No one who knows Skidmore will accuse him of being an angel from heaven."

Minaard's Liniment cures Dandruff.

Incurable Fidelity.

Two old Scotch friends met and spoke of the days when they had been sweaters. At last he said: "Ah, Jennie, an' I hae nae loved anybody since you. I hae never forgotten you." "John," she replied, with a little moistening of the eyes, "you're just as big a leaver as ever, an' I believe ye jist the same."—Answers.

Iron in the blood is necessary. Miller's Compound Iron Pills contain the element in the most assimilable form.

CATHOLICS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

The Boers Had No Use for Believers in Religious Freedom.

Since the war broke out in South Africa there has been more or less discussion in the English press respecting the status of Catholics in the Transvaal. On one hand, Dr. Loyds has set out to counteract the feeling in Europe that Kruger is hostile to Catholics to the point of persecution, while on the other there has been a great deal of testimony adduced in confirmation of the view which generally obtains. The Tablet, the Catholic organ of England, has taken a decided stand on the question, and quotes from the status of the South African Republic to show that Catholics are excluded from Government positions. Law No. 2, of 1899, in relation to the civil service, enacts as follows:

Article 15—Applications must be written in the language of the country, and must be written in the applicant's own handwriting. They must be accompanied by a certificate of burghership from the field-cornet of the district, which must state clearly whether the applicant is entitled to vote as a full burgher or as a naturalized burgher. The certificate of burghership from the field-cornet of the district, which must state clearly whether the applicant is entitled to vote as a full burgher or as a naturalized burgher, must be enclosed with every other portion of the application. This would seem to be conclusive proof of the strictly legal side of the matter. The law as it stands not only excludes Catholics from holding office, but also prohibits a Catholic from being a member of the Volksraad. And it is strictly in keeping with the narrow spirit in which President Kruger has always ruled the republic. Intolerance and arrogance have gone hand in hand. No one can read Mr. Fitzgerald's book, "The Transvaal from Within," without marveling that such an oligarchy could have been built up in South Africa in the nineteenth century. Catholics and Jews have had no rights within the alleged republic, and Britain's struggle is for the establishment of freedom in South Africa for all, as in every other portion of her own empire.—Acadian Recorder, Halifax.

To Cure a Cold in One Day.

Take Laxative Broom Quinine Tablets. All druggists have them. Price 25c. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box.

Too Businesslike.

Stella—Why on earth did Miss Pechis reject Mr. Boomer? He's making lots of money in the advertising business. Bella—Yes, and he proposed to her by mail in the fashion—'I can place in a few good papers of guaranteed circulation at a minimum cost the following notice (pure reading, top column): Engaged, Miss Birch, to Mr. Howard Boomer.' If this proposition meets your approval, kindly sign and return by first mail.—Philadelphia Press.

We know of a number of cases of supposed consumption that have been cured by Miller's Compound Iron Pills.

Cocoa Matting Snow Fence.

A firm in Dresden is offering a novel kind of fencing against drifting snow. It consists of a cocoanut matting, or rather netting, the meshes of which are about 1 1/2 inches wide. The mats are usually 13 x 5 feet, says the Railway Gazette, and are lashed at the ends to posts which may be made of old ties, with truss ropes at the top and bottom. These fabrics offer very little resistance to the passage of light winds, but they perfectly arrest snowflakes and do not decay when wet nor break when dry. In summer they may be rolled up and stowed away.

A prominent bridge contractor, Mr. Binkers, says he took Miller's Compound Iron Pills for stomach trouble, from which I suffered for two years, and soon felt like a new man.

Regardless of Cost.

Clerk (to employer)—What shall I mark that new lot of black silk? Employer—Mark the selling price at \$3 a yard. Clerk—But it cost only \$1 a yard. Employer—I don't care what it cost. I am selling off regardless of cost.

New Life for a quarter. Miller's Compound Iron Pills.

Minaard's Liniment for sale everywhere.

A Sure Sign.

"Is she a woman of much strength of character?" "Strength of character? Well, rather. Why, she has money enough to dress in the very latest fashion, and she doesn't do it."—Chicago Post.

A VALUABLE RECIPE.

For Coughs, Colds and Lung Diseases. Take a half teaspoon full Flax-seed Tea with a dash of Eucalypti.

GERMAN BRUST BALSAM.

Four or five times a day. It never fails to give immediate relief. Price 25c. Sold by M. F. EBY, Chemist, Port Elgin, Ont.

Check that Cough.

with BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES.

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ISSUE NO 9. 1900.

Scrofula and Consumption.

People tainted with scrofula very often develop consumption. Anemia, running of the ear, scaly eruptions, imperfect digestion, and enlargement and breaking down of the glands of the neck, are some of the more prominent of scrofula symptoms—are forerunners of consumption. These conditions can be arrested, consumption prevented and health restored by the early use of Scott's Emulsion.

Scott's Emulsion.

Your doctor will tell you so.

All druggists; 1/2 pc. and 1/2 pc. SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, Toronto.

Did the Trick.

"The whole world loves a lover," said he. "Yes, so I have heard," said she. "But then you know, I am not the whole world." "You are to me," said he. And then she gave in.

Miller's Worm Powders are a wonderful medicine for ailments of children.