

SECOND CONTINGENT.

Unparalleled Rain Falls Change Character of Country.

The Order of March of Column on the Way to Settle Accounts With Steenkamp.

Major Howe in Command of the Mounted Rifles—Tales about the Rebels—A Pretty Incident—Canadian Horses Not Standing the Strain as Well as the Men.

(From H. S. White, the Sun's Special Correspondent with the Second Canadian Contingent.)

VAN WYCKS, Cape Colony, March 25.—We had expected to meet with many difficulties in our long march, to Kenhardt... we had looked for much heat, for more dust, and most of all for want of water.

This is, indeed, a country of contradictions. The natives tell us that for two years they have scarcely seen a decent shower of rain, or months, in some cases for years, the residents have eked out with the utmost care the little reservoirs of water which they so carefully hoard up by means of dams, almost counting the drops as they are compelled to use.

If I had a bend for statistics I would give you the fall in inches exactly and compare it with the fall of past years, but as I have no aptitude for such matters, you will understand, under the unscientific and inexact method of the general public, who here declare that during the last three days as much or more rain has fallen than during as many previous years.

THINGS MIGHT BE WORSE.

But things are never so bad that they might not be worse. The deluge might have come down in the open field fifty miles away from any kind of shelter. Instead of that we have at least the good fortune to be in the village of Van Wycks Vlei.

On the whole, indeed, it is pretty certain that, from one point of view, this heavy rainfall is a blessing in disguise. When we left Camaroon the residents predicted that our horses would all die from want of water before we could reach Kenhardt.

Most of the cases are dysentery, of a mild form, while there are a few cases of malaria, and one or two of slight accidental injuries. Of the last the most serious is the case of Private D. Hopkins of "D" Battery, from Kingstons, who accidentally shot himself today, while cleaning a revolver, the bullet passed through his knee and came out a few inches below it.

In their mud huts, the men have at least a dry bit of ground on which to spread their blankets, and the possibility of murching their hard-luck and bully-beef without the accompaniment of a shower-bath. The horses, of course, all out in the open, and after "stables" in the mud and rain, it is a blessing to them to have a dry spot to retire to.

THE ORDER OF MARCH.

Such, then, at the present moment is the situation of the main body of the column that is on its way to settle accounts with Mr. Steenkamp and his rebel followers. It is, as everyone will admit, by no means a situation that is over-burdened with comfort, and we are absolutely flooded with it.

Then they proceeded with the part of their occupation that they most thoroughly enjoy and most efficiently perform—namely, that particular kind of looting which is euphemistically called "commandeering."

And whithersoever they have gone we shall go likewise. SUNSHINE AFTER RAIN.

LIKE everything else that travels on wheels, the post cart has been delayed by the bad weather and the heavy condition of the roads.

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TALKS ABOUT THE REBELS.

Since our arrival here, a number of loyal refugees from the north have come into the place. They bring some what contradictory reports. But to-day a really reliable man arrived, and his account of the state of affairs in the disturbed district is probably pretty near the truth.

Kenhardt, that means about 70 or 80 miles of hope deferred? Van Wycks Vlei, as I have said, is not a very big place, but what little there is of it has been very welcome to us.

It appears that their first desire was to sever the telegraphic communication between Van Wycks Vlei and the outside world, and with this end in view they rode up to the post office, which contains all the telegraph office. Here they found our young heroine with her back to the door and the keys in her pocket.

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possible to even mail a letter or send a telegraphic message. Consequently, it may be some time before our Canadian friends will have any news of us, but they may rest assured that their boys are doing their work well and that, as far as I am personally concerned, at the very first possible opportunity I will send to their friends the latest news about them.

A PRETTY INCIDENT.

I will close this letter with an interesting little incident that was brought to my notice the other day by Major Ogilvie. One of our boys, on opening his box of chocolate that was one of those sent to all the members of the contingent by their friends in Toronto, he found in it the following quaint little note, written in a neat, juvenile hand:

Dear little Hattie, you may be sure that your unknown friend, tramping yearly across the black karoo, sleeping night after night beneath the starry skies, in sunshine and storm, in heat and cold, thinks of the kindness of his little unknown friend in Toronto.

His kit-bag is light—according to regulations—and his possessions on these are not many, but probably the one that he cherishes most is that touching note from Hattie.

H. S. WHITE.

COL. WHITE TO SUCCEED VIDAL.

QUEBEC, May 11.—Lieut. Colonel White, D. O. C. has been ordered to Halifax to take over the command of the provisional battalion stationed there, from Lt. Col. Vidal, who will return to headquarters as assistant adjutant general.

A SERIOUS PROBLEM.

(Canadian Military Gazette.)

The supremacy of parliament in the final issue of any question under discussion or dispute must, it is plain, be maintained, so long as we are to be governed constitutionally.

One solution of the problem is offered, which is worthy of more than serious consideration. When friction occurs between the general and his minister, the latter, as the responsible representative to parliament, is, of course, supreme, but friction or minor matters ought not to be allowed to grow towards injury to the militia forces, as it has so frequently done of late.

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SMOKING STUNTS THE GROWTH OF BOYS.

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One of the notable gatherings of the year will be the World's Temperance Congress, which convenes next June in London, England. Over twenty temperance societies, representing religious, scientific and independent bodies in different countries of the world, will give an account of their work and its results during the century.

TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

BY THE WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION OF ST. JOHN.

(Trust the people—the wise and the ignorant—the good and the bad—the one asks questions, and in the end you will educate the race.)

What shall we do with our girls? Give them a good education. Teach them to wash, to iron, to mend stockings, to make their own clothes.

What shall we do with our sons? Give them a good education. Teach them to be brave, strong, true. Teach them to respect women and treat them as their equals.

HINTS TO PARENTS.

Perhaps the most important rule for parents is that they govern their own thoughts, feelings and emotions. The self-control which rules their lives reacts favorably on the character of their children.

WAR BABIES.

Christian Names Which in Years to Come Will Recall Historic Events.

A glance through the big ledgers at the various registrars' offices at the present moment is interesting, and shows to what a large extent parents have been influenced by events of the war in naming their children during the past three or four months.

Their Style of Pronunciation.

South London is well to the front with warlike registrations. Robertes, Bullers, Powells, Whites, Cecils, Rhoades, Hectors, Maxwells, Funnells, Symmons, Frenches, and even a "Ling's" name, a name which would seem to be rather a forbidding name for a three-week-old. Yet there is one on the register. Another South London prophet has anticipated history by naming his little girl Pretoria.

CASTORIA

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form a volume that will be a foundation from which the work of the contingent must date. The idea is most timely and practical, to gather up the demerit work of the closing century and put it in some form as a guide for future work.

SELF GOVERNING COLONY.

BIRMINGHAM, Eng., May 11.—Joseph Chamberlain, secretary of state for the colonies, presided this evening at the annual meeting of the grand committee of the liberal unionists of Birmingham, the occasion being his first appearance here since the outbreak of the war.

Resolutions of sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain, the occasion being his first appearance here since the outbreak of the war. An immense audience greeted Mr. Chamberlain, who was accompanied by his sons.

Proceeding then to discuss public affairs, Mr. Chamberlain observed: "The peace-at-any-price party does no harm at home; but it does much abroad. Its members must accept the responsibility for numerous attacks upon various statesmen by persons who are always willing to think ill of England."

"We are in the midst of a great war, our ultimate success in which I have never for a moment doubted, and a war which, under Lord Roberts' skillful guidance, seems almost within measurable distance of a satisfactory conclusion. It is an honor to my colleagues to say that I am responsible for the war, or to say that it is a war of capitalists."

"I would not be ashamed to take the whole responsibility for the war; but if there was any special responsibility, it rests with those who misled Mr. Kruger and who encouraged him to resist demands whose moderation had been acknowledged. If England had erred, she has erred in being too lenient."

Turning to the question of the conditions of South African settlement and the fate of the republics, Mr. Chamberlain said: "While the government do not wish to be vindictive, they are determined that never again shall the republics be a nursery of conspiracy, and they will see that justice is done to those who are determined to be loyal. The government are not prepared to recognize the independence of the Boer republics—(cheers)—and we are determined that the republics shall be finally incorporated under the British flag."

"For an interval they must be a crown colony, such as India is, but we hope they will eventually become a great self-governing colony, like Canada and Australia."

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