

maintenance of our great and glorious Empire. (Here there was great cheering, and the crowd sang 'For He's a Jolly Good Fellow'). Immediately on receipt of the information, I sent the following cables:—'To Colonel Baden-Powell, Mafeking.—On behalf of the people of New Zealand I desire to tender you our heartiest congratulations on the successful result of your heroic defence of Mafeking, and express to you warm appreciation of the noble way in which that defence has been maintained by you and the men under your control. Your noble defence will never be forgotten by the people in this portion of the British Empire, whose highest respect and goodwill you will have.—(Signed) J. G. Ward, Acting Premier.' (Cheers.)

COLONEL BADEN-POWELL'S NOBLE DEFENCE.

"The following cable was also despatched:—'To Lord Roberts.—On behalf of the people of New Zealand I desire to tender you our heartiest congratulations on the successful relief of Mafeking, and to express our warm appreciation of the noble way in which that defence has been maintained by Colonel Baden-Powell and the men under his control.—(Signed) J. G. Ward, Acting Premier.' (Cheers.)

"And at the request of the officers of the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department I sent another message as follows: 'To Colonel Baden-Powell, Mafeking.—On behalf of 3500 New Zealand Post and Telegraph officials, offer you warmest congratulations upon successful issue, heroic stand, yourself, officers and men. Your magnificent defence will never be forgotten.—(Signed) J. G. Ward, Postmaster-General.' (Cheers.)

"Fellow citizens, it is more than seven months since Baden-Powell, with his brave 600 men, first took charge of Mafeking, and when he did so, the gravest fears were entertained from end to end of the British Empire that with the heavy odds against him he would not be able to hold out for long. But we have since learnt that he has shown himself to be a true warrior, full of courage and possessed of wonderful resource. (Loud cheers.)

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