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THE SANDON FIRE.

Editor TRADER:

SIR, —I have just left Sandon, and thought probably you would like to hear of our friends there. Having finished my business there a week ago, I just made the trip to day to see the ruins. The fire indeed made a clean sweep of it, as there is only one business place left.

The jewelers, having saved most of their stock and tools, were ready for business the morning after the fire. Mr. Melvin mourns the loss of his favorite dog, which was burned. He is settled for the present in a tent, with two blankets, and work piling in, people on the street to-day handing him watches to fix up.

Mr. Grimmitt is more fortunate and to be envied, as he is very comfortably located in a neat little hen house. With all the watch work coming in and attending to his new building, he, too, is a busy man. Although when I left there at one o'clock to-day, they had not started on his building, he expects it will be finished to-night, and he will move into it to-morrow, and, by the way other buildings are going up, I guess he will.

With the mines all working and so much building going on, Sandon will be a livelier and prettier town than ever. They also intend making the street sixty feet wide instead of about twelve.

A. B. KLEISER.

Kaslo, B.C., May 8th.

OUR MONTREAL LETTER.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

So far as the war is concerned, things are coming our way with a rush, and the inevitable end appears to be very near. In less than a fortnight came news of the wonderful march of Lord Roberts from Bloemfontein to Kroonstad, the flight of the Boers to the Vaal river, the capture by General Hutton of three Boer generals in one day, the occupation of Newcastle and Dundee by General Buller, and the flight of the Boers even beyond Laing's Nek, and last, but by no means least, there came the news of the relief of Mafeking. When this news reached London and the Provinces, the scenes of enthusiasm were unprecedented, exceeding those following the

relief of Ladysmith, and the gallant little band of defenders deserved all the praise which it received. The Boers could have taken the place without doubt, if they had been prepared to pay the penalty, but this they were never willing to do, and, as Baden Powell told them, "You can't take Mafeking by sitting down and looking at it," or words to that effect. No, the Boers are good fighters when they can sneak behind a rock and have plenty of room to run away when danger threatens, but of real personal courage they appear to have a very small quantity. They have failed in all their sieges and in everything they hoped to attain, in spite of the fact that the earlier advantages were all upon their side. They invaded British territory and annexed it, burning and pillaging like a lot of brigands, and treating the loyal British farmers who happened to fall into their clutches with the brutality of savages. They were boastful and vain-glorious while they thought they were "on top," but now they recognize that they are getting a good licking, they whine and cant and lie, and are doing their best to set other nations against the British Empire, so that they may escape the penalty of their misdeeds. It is of no use, however. The Boer delegates got precious little encouragement in Europe, and they will get no tangible support in the United States, although some of the citizens, either vicious or misguided, will attend their meetings and shout themselves black in the face. Great Britain has been America's best friend, and the best Americans, such as Mahan and Choate and Dewey, know it, and tell their countrymen that they know it, and while this is so, the enmity of the Tammany boodle crowd and such like vermin may safely be despised. There is one sure thing, that no terms other than absolute and unqualified surrender will be made with the enemy. England has erred towards the Boers in the past by showing them kindnesses they were not great enough to appreciate. The lesson has been well learned now though, and much ignorance, corruption, and oppression will soon be swept away. We are going to do now what ought to have been done twenty years ago, and we are going to do it thoroughly. Kruger and Steyn's milk is spilt for keeps, and all the crying in the world won't bring it back again. The British Empire suffered a good many humiliations at the beginning of this war and the bill for the same must be collected to the full. It is a habit of the British peoples to forgive very quickly, and this is an estimable quality no doubt, but too much forgiveness in the present case would be labelled weakness and fear, and must not be indulged in. We must have our full pound of flesh.

After being kept some time at the Montreal gaol for the purpose of giving information concerning his insolvent estate, James Baxter early in May was deported to the penitentiary of St. Vincent de Paul, where he is now said to be very sick and in the hospital. Messrs. John Hyde and J. O. Dupuis have been appointed curators of the estate.

An interesting lecture was recently delivered before the members of St. George's Y.M.C.A. by Mr. R. A. Dickson, his subject being "A business man's trip through Europe." The lecturer discoursed upon the ways of living and the habits of European workmen, and was accorded a cordial vote of thanks for his address. Mr. Dickson also has presented a silver