

News

Sidelights on the Siege

All on Equal Footing—Waiting for News a Trying Experience. Kimberley's Food Supply—Rations Not Reduced Until December 28.

The question of the food supply, always so important in a time of siege, did not worry us for some weeks after the investment had commenced.

One of the most trying experiences of the siege was the waiting for news. Every now and then a dispatch rider or native runner would manage to get through from the British lines with a bundle of English and colonial papers, but these occasions were very much like tangle's visits.

When it became known that Lord Methuen's advance had been checked, there was a run on tinned goods of every description, and these were soon practically unobtainable.

When it was in the first week of the New Year that we were called upon to make a call to which the majority of the inhabitants did not respond with alacrity.

Boer Secret Service

Boer Government Spends More Money Than Any Other in the World.

An Elaborately Conducted Department—The Training of Boer Agents.

No country in the world has its secret service department more elaborately conducted, or employs a more able and talented set of men, than does the Transvaal.

Even this large sum was found ridiculously inadequate, for, as anyone may see who takes the trouble to turn up the Blue-book from the select committee on British South Africa, the amount placed on the estimate for 1896 was £90,000.

The secret service was started soon after the War of Independence, but it was not until the late 1870s that it was organized for the most part of a number of agents who furnished reports on electioneering and other matters of interest and founded pro-Boer newspapers.

Spending the Huge Sums of money related above was put into operation "to undermine the paramountcy of Great Britain in South Africa," that being "the object in view" of the German and Transvaal authorities.

These men infest the ranks of society, and it is by no means improbable—nay, it is certain—that they are to be found in the service of Her Majesty.

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Sporting News

BASEBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE Philadelphia, April 25.—Brooklyn, 6; Philadelphia, 4; Dan and McGuire, Platt and McFarland; umpire, Emalle.

CRICKET GREENWOOD CLUB MEETING At the recent meeting of the Greenwood Cricket Club the election of officers resulted as follows: President, F. J. Flanagan;

THE WHEEL TORONTO RACERS (Associated Press) Toronto, April 27.—Chairman Walter, of the C. W. A., will shortly summon a meeting of the racing board of that association to deal with bicycle racing in this country.

LACROSSE CAUSE FOR DISCUSSION The usual placidity in Mainland lacrosse circles appears to be considerably disturbed of late by the adverse criticism on the part of the Terminal City enthusiasts of the action of their delegates to the lacrosse convention in agreeing to the Peele brothers playing with the Westminster team this season.

A LONG CROOKED ROAD Love has a long way to go to reach the heart of the modern up-to-date young man.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM The British museum was established a half century before the library of congress, and had as a foundation three considerable collections already formed.

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past. They are now, however, residents of Vancouver, and on this ground the Terminal City people object to their continuing to play for the rival team.

JAMES BAY MEETING A meeting of the James Bay Lacrosse Club was held on Wednesday evening, when, among other business, the question of arranging a match with the Vancouver Juniors in this city during the approaching celebration was discussed.

STEINITZ FREE AGAIN Steinitz has been recently discharged from Dr. J. J. Kindred's River Crest Sanitarium, near Astoria, O., where he had been undergoing treatment for weeks.

POINTS ABOUT MAFeking. A Colonial visitor, who has some acquaintance with Mafeking, has given a representative of the Cassell's Saturday Journal some particulars about the place which has held its own splendidly.

Counted Without Colonel Baden-Powell and his plucky garrison.

"An interesting feature of Mafeking in times of peace is the Baralong settlement, a little distance to the northwest of the town, near the Molopo river (which, by the way, is more of a brook than a river).

"The climate is very healthy, but water is not plentiful; and, although it is a great place for grain and cattle, those industries are a good deal hampered by bad harvests and insect pests.

"A good many people stumble over the pronunciation of the name, which is the European form of a native word. It is not Mafeking or Mafeking, but Mafy-ling."

SQUELCHING THE ENCORE FIEND. Indianapolis, Press. The long, solemn gentleman with the piercing eyes tapped gently on the shoulder of the encore stand in front of him.

"Allow me to present you," said he, handing the applauder a small paper package.

"What does this mean?" asked the recipient, wrathfully, as he opened the package and found about \$2 in dimes and nickels.

"It means this," replied the solemn gentleman, "I have noticed your earnest efforts to have everything twice. Therefore, I have taken up this small collection in order that you may come to-morrow, instead of trying to get your two performances in one evening."

G. A. Kirk returned home by the Islander last night.



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