



LORD DUNDONALD'S GALLOPING GUN CARRIAGE USED IN SOUTH AFRICA.—[Boston Glob.

WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Interesting Particulars of the Struggle Between Great Britain and the Boers.

RHODES' VIEWS.

Whatever the "man in the street" may think about the interview which Cecil Rhodes granted to Julian Ralph for publication in the Daily Mail, military experts are inclined to laugh and sneer. Few think it is worth while discussing at all. Others say it is simply presumptuous. Cecil Rhodes is all very well in his place, but is not competent to criticise military operations. Lord Methuen, they say, may have made mistakes or may not. That does not give Mr. Rhodes the right to say that the military project to take all the people out of Kimberley and back to the Orange River was scandalous, monstrous and a disgrace to England. Military men pass over Mr. Rhodes' tirade against the plans for the relief of Kimberley as the outburst of a disappointed man, who expected the British would have a walk-over, or he would not have allowed himself to be shut up in the town. Of course, many others besides Rhodes had much the same idea. The military expert of the Westminster Gazette sums up an answer to Rhodes' argument in these words:—"When Mr. Rhodes can render soldiers bullet proof and impervious to hunger, fatigue and disease, then the British and other generals may not find it necessary to plan retreats.

Mr. Rhodes has not increased his reputation by allowing his angry feelings to get into print in thus fiercely criticising what he affirms was Britain's military plans." A leading subject was the despatches published in the Government Gazette dealing with Gatacre's and Methuen's defeats. With the light now thrown on the engagement at Magersfontein, Lord Methuen, who seems from his despatch to have blamed some of his officers for not carrying out his orders, is blamed by military men for his methods in attacking the Boers. The Magersfontein operation involved as one element of success a night attack, but night attacks are used for two purposes, to surprise the enemy or to cross ground exposed to the enemy's fire with as little loss as possible. Methuen made some sort of preparation to advance by shelling the enemy's position for only two hours. To attempt an attack in the darkness while the Boers were on the alert was courting a disaster, as was only too well proved.

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J. F. VANBUSKIRK, Fredericton.

SONG OF EMPIRE.

Mr. W. E. Henley appears to have written the most popular war song yet called out in England by the Boer war. It was published originally in The Sphere, has been set to music and is being sung everywhere. Canada and the other colonies are in the song and will be interested in it. When the music arrives we shall probably hear everybody singing "Storm Along, John!"

Storm along, John! Though you faltered at first,
Caught in an ambush, and held to the worst,
All the old counties were hard on the spot,
For they hadn't a son but rejoiced in his lot.
You had only to cart 'em some thousands of miles;
So you fell to your work with the calmest of smiles,
And each with her battles, your ships you sent on,
Till you beggared the record—Hi! Storm along John!

Storm along, John! Storm along, John!
Frenchman and Russian and Dutchman and Don
Know the sea's yours from the Coast to Canton!
Storm along, storm along, storm along, John!

Storm along, John! There was work to be done,
With a foe in full blast ere you sighted a gun!
Came, the news came, that you reeled in the brunt,
And at home, by the Lord, it was "Who's for the front?"
And your whelps overseas, John—the whelps that you knew
For the native, original, pattern true blue—
O, your whelps wanted blood, they cried to come on,
And—Hark to them chorus: "Storm along, John!"

Storm along, John! Storm along, John!
Half the world's yours, and the rest may look on,
Mum, at the rip from Quebec to Ceylon,
Storm along, storm along, storm along, John!

Storm along, John! All your Britons are out;
Melbourne and Sydney got up with a shout;
Wellington, Ottawa, Brisbane, their best
Send, with Cape Town, and the fighting Northwest.
Horses, men, guns for you! India's a flame!
How the lads of Natal have been playing the game!

From Gib. to Vancouver, from Thames to Yukon,
The live air is loud with you—Storm along, John!
Storm along, John! Storm along, John!
Not in the best of the years that are gone
Has the star which is yours thus tre-

mendously shone!
Storm along, storm along, storm along John!

HOW ROBERTS FOOLED THE BOERS.

A Boer commandant, one of Cronje's men, who fell into the hands of Lords Roberts and Kitchener, spoke freely with a London newspaper correspondent of the calculations of the Boer leaders as to the British plan of campaign. In the first place they were convinced that the British would be unable to follow any other line of advance than that afforded by the railway. Three lines were obvious to them—namely, the railway which enters the Transvaal from Natal at Charlestown, that through the Free State by Springfontein and Bloemfontein, and the Kimberley-Mafeking route. The consensus of opinion was that the British reason for making strenuous efforts to relieve Kimberley was to secure the Kimberley-Mafeking line, whence an advance into the heart of the Transvaal from the railway would have been easy. Gen. Cronje refused to believe it possible for the British to make a long march off the railway, and therefore totally misconceived the object of Lord Roberts' strategic movement, which he imagined merely indicated a change of direction in the attack on Magersfontein by way of Jacobsdal.

SWITZERLAND'S REPLY.

The federal council has answered the Boer appeal for mediation as follows:—"The Swiss federal council would have been pleased to co-operate in friendly mediation in order to end further bloodshed, but as the presidents of both South African republics have directly approached the British government in order to conclude peace on a basis indicated and the British government has shown itself against the proposal, and as, furthermore, the British

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government has declared to the cabinet at Washington that it would not purpose to accept the intervention of any power, the Swiss federal council, to its regret must also renounce the idea of taking any steps on the lines of the request made by the Presidents of the South African republics. There remains for the federal council, in the circumstances, nothing but to express its sincere wish that the belegerents will have succeeded at no too far distant date in finding a basis for an understanding honorable to both parties."

LYDDITE VS. 'HELL-SCRAPERS.'

Boer prisoners state that they could not have believed that England could send so many soldiers against them. Whenever one was killed there was another to take his place, whereas the Boers had no reserves, except civil servants, and all the men who had been on furlough were now back with the army. In answer to a question as to the effects of our lyddite shells, my informant said they were good for burning, but were of no effect for purposes of war. The Boers, however, were afraid of the shrapnel, which they called "hell-scrappers." They did not mind the lyddite so much, because the smoke gave them time to take cover, and though the fumes were stupefying, they got over that by taking a spoonful of vinegar.



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