

WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

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

CAPTURED A BOER.

CORPORAL FRAWLEY, OF HALIFAX, CAUGHT ONE OF OOM PAUL'S MEN.

Though the Toronto company was the first of the Canadian contingent to go into real action in South Africa and company H. was left behind, a letter recently received in Halifax shows that one of the first Boer captures made by the Canadians was by a Halifax boy, Corporal William Frawley. The facts of the capture are contained in a private letter to his family in Halifax. The following are extracts from the letter which are dated Belmont, December 13:

"We had plenty of experiences on the trip out if I had the time to write of them; but we do not know what moment we may be called on, as we now are in the enemy's country and the only regiment within twelve miles. Last night was the first night I turned in for four nights and then had only four hours rest, as we turned out again at 2 a. m., in expectation of an attack.

"I had charge of an outpost three miles from camp since Sunday morning last and only returned last night. My party consisted of three men, two signal men and myself, and it kept us on the qui vive all the time, as Boer scouts abound and try every means to get within our lines for information.

"We have taken quite a few prisoners, mostly Kaffirs but I had the luck yesterday morning to make a capture that may be important. Just before daylight I was on my way to see if the sentries were awake and at their posts and when coming around the foot of a hill I almost stumbled over a horse all saddled. I knew the rider would not be far away, so I got under cover and was rewarded in a few minutes by seeing the outline of a man coming towards the horse, I waited until he got in the saddle and drawing a straight bead on him called 'halt,' at the same assuring him that I would shoot if he did not. He threw up his hands and I brought him to post, where he was relieved of a rifle, revolver and knife. I brought him into my camp last night. He would not account for himself. One of our scouts last night saw him and says he is a Boer scout.

THE UNARMED VICTIMS OF WAR.

Not soldiers alone are put to the test in time of war, as it is shown by the report that three British subjects were shot in the market square at Harrismith, for refusing to bear arms for the Boers. When the history of this war is written, there will probably be some black chapters in which will be recorded the treatment of non-combatants by the Boers. During the heat of the strife we are disposed to feel some doubt of the accuracy of the news that comes regarding Boer treachery. But that three good British men, civilians, tradesmen, with no particular credit to be gained, should stand out and be shot on the market square, rather than seem to take sides with the enemies of the people, is an instance of devotion and fortitude that should not escape the notice of those foreign critics, who say the Britisher lacks sentiment. No man is more willing to die for an idea than he, if he can but take self-approval with him.

HOW HORSES FARE IN BATTLE.

We hear very little of the loss of horses in battle, says the Golden Penny, although it is a fact that the slaughter of horses is enormous, and entails doubtless many hours of intense agony upon them. The slaughter of horses varies with the nature of the fight. In the case of a war in which the artillery played the most prominent part the horses, offering a large target, would fall in large numbers, while in short and sharp hand-to-hand encounter the loss of horses and men would be nearly equal. In the Peninsular war there were many smart skirmishes, and in fifteen of these there were lost 380 horses and 160 men. At Talavera there fell 290 horses and 240 men. The slaughter of horses at Fontenoy was appalling, for no less than 625 were lost, while only 311 men were killed. In that famous mistake, the Balaclava charge by the Light Brigade, there were about 360 horses and men. Of these horses 460 were lost, and 280 men died. A military authority thus sums up the proportions in different centuries:—"During the century 1699

to 1799 the loss and disablement of horses was 150 for each 100 men. From 1800 to 1865 the proportion was in cavalry 120 horses to 100 men, and in artillery 133 horses to 100 men; while from 1866 to 1871 the relative numbers were, for cavalry 140 horses to 100 men, and for artillery 133 horses to 100 men. By omitting the disastrous Austrian retreat of 1866, the average would work out at 112 horses to 100 men."

WHY SO MANY ENGLISH OFFICERS ARE KILLED BY THE BOERS.

At one o'clock this morning the flying column began marching out of camp. The men carried nothing but their arms, their water bottles, and a water-proof rug and blanket for each. The officers were similarly equipped, actually carrying rifles, so that they can be in no way distinguished from the men. Something must be done to reduce the terrible mortality of officers experienced in the first two fights in Natal. In reality, the high percentage of officers killed is due to the fact that they must of necessity expose themselves more than the men under their command, and with the enormous amount of lead poured into an advancing force by the modern magazine rifle, the officers who are standing up to direct their men run a tremendous risk of being hit. In small skirmishes, however, it is possible that the good rifle-shots on either side can pick their men carefully, so that the absence of a distinctive mark may prove to be of value to officers. In any case there can be no harm in making the experiment of arming them with rifles, though in the long run their losses are not likely to decrease to any extent. It is one of the myths of war that the enemy pick off officers, just as it is a common legend that the enemy, whether he be Boer, Spaniard, Turk, or any other infidel, is in the habit of aiming at wounded men and using explosive bullets.—From "The First Stage of the Boer War," by H. J. Whigham, in the February Scribner's.

HEALTH OF CANADIAN REGIMENT.

Mr. W. Richmond Smith, writing to The Star says: The health of the regiment on the whole since its arrival in South Africa has been remarkably good, considering the tremendous climatic changes through which the men have come. Nearly all the cases in hospital since our arrival in Belmont been of tonsillitis, which I understand from the natives is epidemic in this part of the country at this season of the year. The days are frightfully hot and the nights uncomfortably cool. The result is very heavy dew, which is particularly hard on those of the men who have to spend the entire night out in the open on guard and picket duty. I went through the hospital yesterday with Surgeon-Major Wilson. There are three cases of tonsillitis, two of which are convalescing and one pretty serious. The other inmates are suffering from minor complaints which though weakening are not dangerous; considering what the regiment has come through since we sailed from Quebec the average good health of the Regiment is remarkable. There have unfortunately been two deaths, but that is a small average death rate in a regiment of over one thousand, subjected all the time to the most tremendous changes of climate, food and occupation.

THE VELDT IS A FINE CAMPAIGNING GROUND.

We have seen a good deal of campaigning on the veldt, and if one expects a

few discomforts, such as the brown color of our drinking-water and an occasional flight of locusts, we must admit that the veldt, with its level space and bracing air, is almost ideal field for campaigning. And even the storms of dust, rain, and locusts are welcome in moderation, for they are features of the country which go to make up a full experience of life in South Africa. In one week there have been two rainstorms and one flight of locusts. There is certainly no hardship in that; indeed, the rain is most welcome, for it cools the air and helps to lay the dust.—From "The First Stage of the Boer War," by H. J. Whigham, in the February Scribner's.

Cecil Rhodes' sister is next to Olive Schreiner, the most interesting woman in South Africa to-day. Her eccentricities are numerous, and she is as famed for her dislike of men as is her brother for his of women. She is so decidedly of the masculine type as to at once attract attention. In complexion and manner she closely resembles the English squire of sporting prints, and she has been endowed with a voice to march. Indeed there is nothing feminine about her except her deference to the social conventionalities in always having a woman's companion in close attendance upon her. As she has an ample fortune, many peculiarities are forgiven her, while her impulsive generosity wins her many friends. On board a steamer going down to Cape Town recently she regulated the handicaps for the running matches, umpired the chicken fights, and was particularly active in inciting to extraordinary efforts the contestants in a tug of war. Her Home Groot Schur, is a beautiful country place near Cape Town, where she has made a zoological collection which includes almost every wild animal native to South Africa. She has a better understanding of the politics and statecraft of South Africa than many a member of the Colonial Office. Of course her views are the exact opposite of those of Olive Schreiner, the Boers' champion.

The Montreal Gazette remarks that Captain C. A. Hensley, of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, is the second graduate of the Canadian Military College to meet his death in the South African war, and the fifth of the college's sons to die while doing his duty in the Dark Continent. Besides those who have gone with the Canadian troops, there are something like a hundred Canadian officers on service with the army in South Africa. In this matter Canada gives more than any of the colonies. It is our war in a real sense.

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TENDERS

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Tenders are asked for the construction and completion of St. Mary's Church, up to the 5th March, next, to be addressed to the undersigned and marked on the outside "Tender for Indian River Catholic Church."

Plans and specifications can be seen on Monday, 5th February, next, at the Bishop's Place and at the office of Mr. W. C. Harris, Architect, Ch'town, for ten days; afterwards they can be seen at the Parochial House, Summerside. A certified bank cheque of \$500.00 will be required to accompany each tender, which will be returned if tender be not accepted, and forfeited if tenderer fail to accept, if called upon.

The undersigned does not bind himself to accept the lowest or any tender. D. J. GILLIS, P.P. Indian River, P. E. I., Jan 26th 1900. Herald.

PARLIAMENT MEETS

FEBRUARY 1st.

THE GAZETTE FOR THREE MONTHS FOR \$1

In view of the approaching session of the Dominion Parliament, THE GAZETTE will be sent to new subscribers daily for Three Months for One Dollar.

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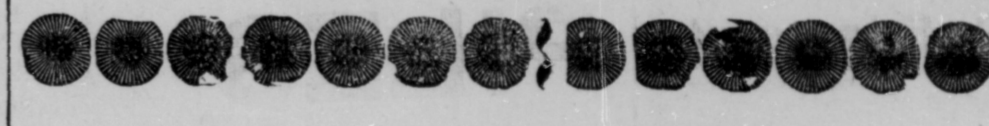
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NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the shareholders THE EXAMINER Publishing Company, will be held at the office of THE EXAMINER newspaper, on Wednesday, the 31st day of January, inst, at 8 o'clock p. m. A. INWIN, Sec'y.

Your Kind Attention to our December 31s Account will oblige us.

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