

MAFEKING'S FOOD SUPPLY.

The Garrison Prepared to Endure the Sieze for That Length of Time—Col. Plumer's Force Strengthened.

London, Wednesday, April 18.—News from Mafeking of date of April 7 reports that the garrison there was then resigning itself to endure the siege as long as the food lasts, which was expected to be for two months more. Commandant Snyman has been replaced by young Commandant Botha. Considerable Boer reinforcements had lately arrived, and something of importance was evidently proceeding among the besiegers.

There was a vigorous bombardment of the town at intervals with guns of greater velocity than the Boers have used since the commencement of the siege.

Colonel Plumer's force was strongly entrenched to the north-west.

A despatch from Salisbury, Rhodesia, dated April 11, states that three officers and 100 of the British South Africa Company's Mounted Police have left Salisbury to join Col. Plumer.

BOERS IN GOOD CONDITION.

Plumer's Camp, Friday, April 6, via Lorenzo Marques, Tuesday, April 17.—A letter has been received here from Commandant Snyman with reference to the British wounded and prisoners at the Boer laager after the engagement of March 31, from which it is learned that Capt. Crewe died of his wounds. Lieut. Milligan is not a prisoner, and is believed to be among those the Boers buried. The British casualties were 2 officers and 6 men killed, 3 officers and 36 men wounded, and 1 officer and 11 men made prisoners.

The Boer artillery about Mafeking is well holed. Their pomppoms are mounted on light four-wheeled carriages, each drawn by four smart horses, in marked contrast with those

Col. Plumer fought with at Crocodile post. The Boers, too, are well mounted and well dressed, and have their looking patrols. The grain and other crops in the district are excellent, so the Transvaalers are not likely to suffer from scarcity of food for a long time.

Plumer's little force is now strongly entrenched north-west of Mafeking.

The country hereabouts is much easier traversed than that the Rhodesians are operating in. The total casualties Saturday were 78 but many are convalescing. Men and horses are improving in health as the winter approaches.

Natives report that the inhabitants of Mafeking are very hungry. Should a flying column be despatched to their relief it will find the country well grassed and watered as it proceeds northward.

The body of Captain Crewe has been handed over to Colonel Baden-Powell and buried in Mafeking cemetery.

The Boers are being bolstered up by all sorts of stories from Pretoria among their reports that Russia and France have declared war against Great Britain.

A SUCCESSFUL SCOUT.

Mafeking, April 7.—The success of Lieut. Smith-Eman, the Rhodesian scout, who, with the exception of the Boer correspondent, a cyclist, is the only white man who has entered Mafeking since the siege began, is likely to prove of great value to Col. Plumer, to whom he has returned with despatches, should Plumer decide to raise the siege of Mafeking in earnest.

A Scottish officer has introduced a method of making nourishing porridge with oat bran, which is a great boon, and is solving the question of feeding the natives.

We are now confident of holding out two months longer. The men in the trenches are determined to play the game to the end.

tenders have yet been asked for by this Government in connection with these supplies.

Mr. Cheney was told by Mr. Blair that Mr. W. E. Phin, in addition to his contract for dredging at Toronto, has also a contract as the partner of Mr. Magann for the extension of the west pier at the east entrance of Toronto harbour. The work is being done by tender, and no payments have yet been made on it.

COL. PRIOR CALLED ATTENTION TO THE PRESS despatch announcing the arrival in British Columbia of large numbers of Japanese, and asked the Government to ascertain whether they were destined for the United States or Canada. If they were going to remain in the Dominion, they would be a serious menace to white labour.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that for Imperial reasons it was not thought advisable to restrict Japanese immigration, and he believed the Government's policy in that respect was approved in British Columbia. The Department of the Interior would look into the question of their destination.

Mr. Fisher told Mr. McMillen that Major Dent, the Imperial remount officer, had not reported that he was in Canada to purchase horses for the Imperial army.

Mr. Fielding informed the House that he was not yet able to make the statement which he had promised with regard to the negotiations for a trade treaty between Canada and the Island of Trinidad. Part of the correspondence was confidential, and he would have to wait for permission from Trinidad before producing it.

Dr. Spence called attention to a paragraph in the papers relating to the existence of foot and mouth disease among American cattle. He wanted to know if precautions were being taken to prevent the introduction of the disease in this country.

Mr. Fielding replied that he had not heard of the existence of the disease, but would enquire. He was sure that Canadian cattle were in no danger.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, answering Col. Kaulbach, said the Government was always ready to receive any overtures from Newfoundland on the subject of the colony's joining the Canadian Confederation. So proposals had been made recently to the island for reciprocal trade relations, the reason being that it was thought the political situation in Newfoundland made the present time unpropitious for such proposals.

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier told Mr. Puttee that the Government had not come to any conclusion in regard to extending aid to the famine-stricken districts of India. It was thought advisable to communicate with the Home authorities on the subject.

Mr. Gilmour, Conservative, East Middlesex, said that he was in receipt of communications from a number of his constituents, who were anxious to contribute to the relief of the unfortunate natives in India. Efforts were being made to raise a substantial sum of money, and he rose for the purpose of asking that the Government would recognize the movement and transmit any subscriptions that might be raised in Canada to the proper authorities in India. He asked also whether it would be advisable to offer contributions in grain. He read the resolutions adopted by his constituents at a meeting at Hyde Park, and commended the movement to the Government, so that by official recognition the efforts of the Canadian people to raise funds in aid of the sufferers in India might be stimulated.

Mr. Fielding admitted that there was need for something being done to help the unfortunate in India, but he pointed out that there were many objections to the raising of grain or provisions. Pending the decision of the Government on the matter of aid to the unfortunate, he suggested that any Canadian subscriptions should be forwarded to Mr. J. W. Courtney, Deputy Minister of Finance, who would see that they reached the proper quarter. Mr. Courtney was treasurer of the Canadian Indian Famine fund, an organization which was in existence some years ago.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

What the Legislators of the Province are Doing at Toronto.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time:

By Mr. Luksden—Respecting the city of Ottawa.

By Mr. German—To confirm by-law No. 1254 of the city of St. Catharines.

By Mr. Brindley—Bill to incorporate the Bracebridge and Trading Lake railway.

By Mr. Kries—Bill respecting the town of Preston.

By Mr. Fallis—Bill respecting the town of Port Hope.

By Mr. Malcolm—Bill respecting the town of Kincardine.

At the instance of Mr. Matheson the bill relating to the town of Smith's Falls was referred back on account of recently-developed opposition to the clause permitting the town to extend its sewer and water works system without the assent of the electors.

THE PULPWOOD EMBARGO.

The House went into committee on Hon. Mr. Davis' bill respecting the manufacture of spruce and other pulp cut on the Crown domain. It is to confirm the regulations made by the Government placing an embargo on the export of pulpwood cut on Crown lands.

LOSSES AT WEPENER.

Since the Investment British Have Had 20 Killed, 100 Wounded.

Maseru, April 17.—Colonel Dalgety's casualties since he has been besieged at Wepener have been twenty killed and one hundred wounded. The Boer losses are reported to have been considerably heavier.

After the night attack on April 12 the dead were left on the field where they still lie unburied.

There is a conflict of opinion among the Boer leaders. Some want to attack again, while others refuse to do so. Desultory cannon firing and "sniping" continues.

The Caledon is rising, which alarms the Boers, who are now on both sides of the river, and might be cut off if the stream was to become flooded.

Five Boer guns are believed to be disabled.

GEN. WARREN RECALLED.

Order Said to Have Been Cabled to South Africa.

London, April 18.—It is said that a peremptory order for the return of Lieut-General Sir Charles Warren, the commander of the fifth division of the South Africa field forces, was cabled to South Africa this morning.

The War Office declined to give any information in regard to the rumour.

Colonel Crofton, who was in command at Spion Kop from the time General Woodgate was wounded until the position, and whose heliograph messages to General Warren caused General Buller to appoint Thorneycroft to the command, was placed on half pay to-day.

Private information received from Shrewsbury to-day is to the effect that General Gatacre is leaving South Africa this week to resume command of a local district.

MINES' BILL.

Hon. Mr. Davis, in discussing his mines' bill, said it was not the intention of the Government to levy taxes at the present time on minerals for revenue purposes.

Mr. Davis said it would not be in the interests of the mining industry at this time to impose taxation. It was not contemplated that any taxes should be placed upon the iron industry of the province, the development of which had just begun.

Government had asked for discretionary power to impose a maximum tax on nickel ore, but if refining was done in the province the tax might be remitted. Mr. Davis also pointed out the provision that no mine shall be deemed to be worked, and therefore not to be taxed, unless 500 tons of ore were brought to the surface during the course of a year.

This he said, permitted the prospector to work and test a claim without taxation.

ELECTION ACT.

The Attorney-General moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Ontario Election Act. He proposed, that the Queen's Printer should print the forms, and that the names of the candidates should be filed in under the supervision of the returning officer.

Minor changes had been made as to the counting of the ballots. He held it to be essential that there should be the fullest opportunity for the scrutineers to see the marking on the ballots, but he thought it necessary to provide that the agent should handle the ballots. He had also provided that the D.R.O. should be at the polling booth fifteen minutes before the poll opened, and should count the ballots in the presence of the agents. It was also provided that if they desired to do so, agents could endorse the envelopes in which the ballots were sealed. As to the delivery of ballot-boxes after the poll, he had adopted the provisions of the Dominion Act, by enacting that the returning officer, as well as the D.R.O., should attach his seal to the boxes. It was provided also that the returning officer should be careful to return the boxes to be confused with general election returns. He did not propose to make the money penalties so large as in England, and he proposed to leave it discretionary with the judge to inflict imprisonment in the case of a man accepting a bribe. He said the present law gave practically no protection to the honest witness who made a clean breast of anything. The English Act provided that a witness who provided that he should receive a certificate of indemnity. The present measure followed the English Act in that respect.

The Government brought down its railway aid resolutions. The most important of these is one providing for a land grant to the Algoma Central railway, a line which is being built by Mr. Olegre, of Saint-Saurel, Quebec. The grant will total 1,200,000 acres, or 2,000 square miles of pulp lands, and agricultural and mineral lands along the route. The line is in all to extend a distance of about two hundred miles. It will run northward from Saint-Saurel to Missisquoi, a distance of 160 miles, with a spur line to Michipicton; of forty miles. The road is now in course of construction, and the land grants are conditional on its completion. The application was for ten square miles, or 6,400 acres per mile, and the Gov-

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THE TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, April 20.—The receipts here to-day totaled 38 carloads of live stock, and while the market was, in a sense, little changed from its condition last Tuesday, this morning a light demand and weaker prices were characteristics of the cattle trade at the western yards.

The export demand is light, and prices are nominal; 43-c per pound was the outside price.

Butcher cattle is slow and prices weaker, with 4c as quite the top figure.

Stockers were steady, wanted, and in small supply.

Milk cows, export, and light bulls, and feeders are practically unchanged.

Sheep and lambs are firm at recent quotations; about 150 c in.

Good veal calves are wanted.

Too many light hogs are still coming, but as yet prices are unchanged.

For prime hogs, scaling from 160 to 200 lbs., the top price is 61-c; light hogs are bringing 53-c per lb.

Following is the range of quotations:—

Sheep, per cwt.	300	425
Lambs, per cwt.	400	450
Spring lambs, each.	2.50	4.50
Bucks, per cwt.	2.50	3.00
Sheep and Lambs.	275	302 1/2
Cattle.		
Shippers, per cwt.	\$ 425	\$ 475
Butcher, choice, do.	360	400
Butcher, med. to good.	325	350
Butcher, inferior.	250	300
Stockers, per cwt.	275	302 1/2
Hogs.		
Choice hogs, per cwt.	600	612 1/2
Light hogs, per cwt.	500	537 1/2
Heavy hogs, per cwt.	500	537 1/2
Sows.	300	325
Stags.	200	225

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Toronto, April 24.—Wheat—Western markets were weak against local prices were steady, with the exception of Manitobas, which eased off. Quotations are as follows:—Ontario red and white, 65 to 65 1/2-c; western red, 65 to 65 1/2-c; each; goose, 72-c; mixed, 71-c; hard, 79 1/2-c; Manitoba, No. 1, hard, 79 1/2-c; North Bay, and 80 1/2-c.

Flour—Quiet. Straight roller, in buyers' bags, middle freight, \$2.50 per bbl. bid, and \$2.60 asked. Special brands, in wood, \$3 to \$3.10.

Milled—Still scarce. Bran is quoted at \$16.50 to \$17 west; and shorts, at \$17 to \$18 west.

Corn—Easy. No. 2 American yellow, at 46-c, on track here. Canadian scarce; none offered here.

Peas—Holding steady. Car lots, north and west, 62-c; and east, 65-c.

Barley—Steady. No. 2, 42-c west, and 43-c east; and No. 1, 43-c west, and 43-c east, and 44-c east, and 45-c east.

Oats—About steady. White are quoted at 28 1/2 to 29-c, east, and 28-c west, mixed, 27 to 27 1/2-c west.

Buckwheat—Quoted at 55-c west, and 51-c east.

Buffalo, April 24.—Spring wheat—Nominal; No. 1 hard, 81-c; No. 1 Northern, 79-c; No. 2 Northern, 75 1/2-c; No. 2 spring, 75-c. Winter wheat—Weak nominally. No. 2 red, 74-c; No. 1 white, 73 1/2-c; No. 3 yellow, 43 1/2-c; No. 4 yellow, 42 3/4-c; No. 2, 43 1/2-c; No. 3, corn, 43-c. Slightly firmer; No. 2 white, 29 3/4 to 30-c; No. 3 white, 29 1/2-c; No. 4 white, 28 1/2 to 28 3/4-c; No. 2 mixed, 26 1/2-c; No. 3 mixed, 26-c; Rye. No. 2, nominally 63-c. Flour—Easy.

Chicago, April 19.—Flour—Closed. —North-West and South-West, cash, \$1.78; May \$1.72 bid; September, \$1.20; October, \$1.14 bid.

Detroit, April 19.—Wheat—Closed. No. 1 white, cash, 71 1/4-c; No. 2 red, cash, 71 1/4-c; No. 3 yellow, 43 1/2-c; No. 4 yellow, 42 3/4-c; No. 2 Northern, 75 1/2-c; No. 3 Northern, 75 1/2-c; No. 4 Northern, 75 1/2-c; Rye. No. 1, 58-c; No. 2, 43 to 43 1/2-c; sample, 38 1/2-c; 42 1/2-c.

Minneapolis, April 19.—Close. Wheat—in store, No. 1 Northern, April, 67 1/2-c; May, 67 1/2-c; July, 63 1/2-c; to 65 1/2-c; September, 65 1/2-c; on track, No. 1 hard, 63 1/2-c; No. 1 Northern, 64 1/2-c; No. 2 Northern, 63 1/2-c. Flour and bran—Unchanged.

Duluth, April 19.—Wheat—No. 1 hard cash, 68-c; May, 68 1/2-c; July, 69 1/2-c; September, 67 1/2-c; No. 1 Northern, cash, 66-c; May, 66 1/2-c; July, 67 1/2-c; September, 66 1/2-c; No. 2 Northern, 65-c; No. 3 spring, 61-c. Oats—24 1/2 to 25-c.

EARTH'S CENTRE.

It Is Declared To Be Hard as a Diamond By Recent Investigators.

The theory was but lately held that the center of the earth was "occupied" by a vacuum, but the recent and more general view has been that the interior of the globe, though partly liquid, is for the most part solid. Some have considered that a section through the earth would show the following: 1. An outer solid envelope. 2. A semi-fluid envelope. 3. A fluid envelope. 4. A semi-fluid envelope. 5. A solid nucleus. No. 1 results from a reduced temperature only. No. 2 from pressure and temperature not quite sufficient for liquefaction. No. 3 from a temperature sufficiently high to produce complete liquefaction. No. 4 from a pressure so great as to prevent even the terrific heat which most certainly exists deep down the earth from completely liquefying the material on which it works. No. 5 from a pressure which overcomes completely the liquefying power even of the maximum heat of the interior. This pressure is estimated to be at the center of the earth, 7,180,583,750 pounds to the square foot, down to the center of the globe that no known substance could fuse beneath it. Even hydrogen at the highest possible temperature would, under such conditions, become as hard as diamond. Hence it seems probable that far from there being a vacuum at the center of the earth, there is a mass of intensely solidified matter there.

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