

THE DESERET EVENING NEWS

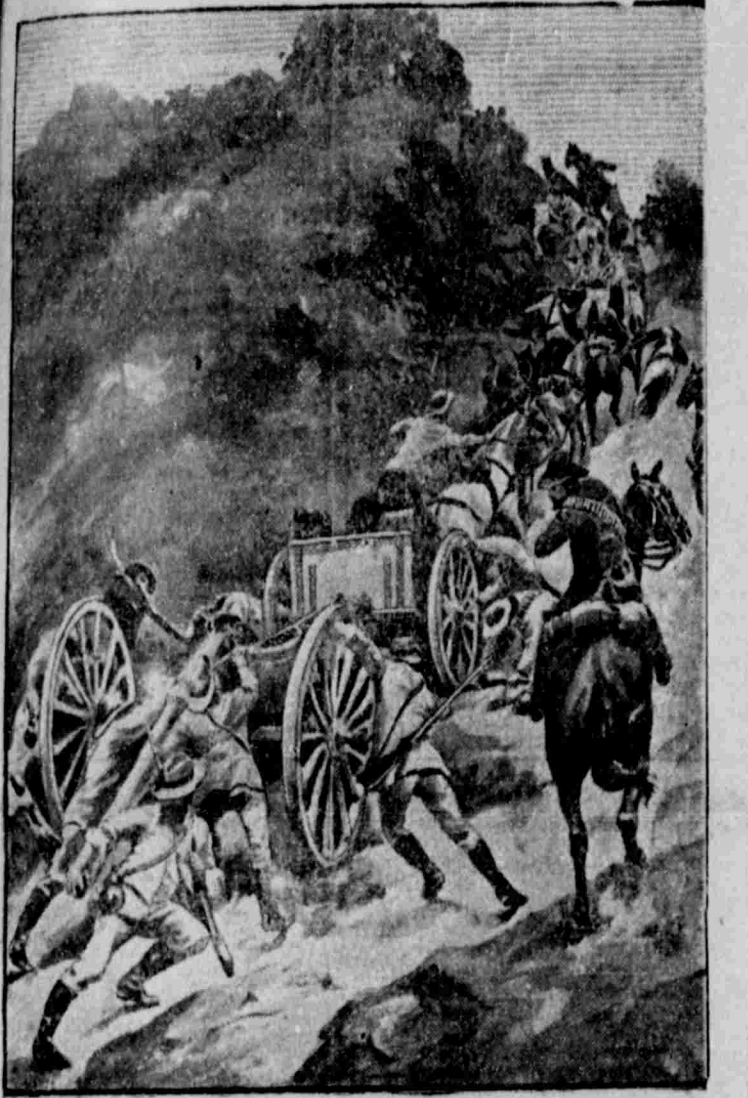
FIFTIETH YEAR

KRUGER IS THE IDOL OF PRETORIA.

Popularity of Oom Paul Is Still Increasing—Some New Phases of the Old Warrior's Character—Transvaal Parliament an All Star Comic Opera Affair—Former Scheme For Taking Pretoria That Seemed Simple, but Failed to Materialize.

Pretoria, Jan. 2.—Kruger is more than the popular idol here, says a special correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer. The whole history of the Transvaal is around this indomitable old warrior president and nearly every day some fresh incident of his life is passed on up to lip by his admirers. Many have played a curious part in Kruger's career. It must be remembered that the Transvaal was once actually annexed to the British empire, and that at that time Kruger and other leaders took office under the British government. Kruger retained his office for some time after he had concerned himself in the repeal agitation, he finally resigned his position on being refused increased remuneration for which he had repeatedly applied. It is a curious coincidence that if Oom Paul had been

BOERS DRAGGING A GUN.



The natural difficulties presented to artillery and cavalry operations in South Africa will be seen by the above. Once a hill is fortified it is almost impregnable, but it requires herculean labor to get guns up such rocky steps.

then that raise in his salary he might have been a loyal British subject and the present war might never have occurred.

HIS FLAWLESS NERVE.

A good story is told of Mr. Kruger as a young man, which shows that he was quite able to take care of himself. Once when hunting on foot Mr. Kruger, after climbing to the top of a kopje, found that he had been seen by a number of hostile natives, who were then turning toward him, some to climb the kopje, others branching out to surround him. He knew that those on the flat could cut him off before he could descend, and that his only chance lay in speed. Stepping on to the outermost edge in full view of the enemy, he calmly laid down his rifle, drew off first one and then the other of his home-made shot bags in those poorer days worn without socks, and, after quietly knocking the sand out of them, drew them on again. By this time the natives had stopped to observe him. He then picked up his rifle again, and, turning to the right and then to the left, as if directing them to charge round the top of the hill. The next instant the Kaffirs were in full retreat.

A TABAROS TEMPER.

When things upset his honor the president gets into a terrible temper. During the early part of 1896, when the question of the release on bail of reform prisoners seemed to be of grave moment, a well known Pretoria man, friendly to the government, called upon President Kruger and urged the advisability of allowing the prisoners out on bail, and with considerable lack of tact explained that it was well known that the president's humane nature inclined him to be lenient, but that the human influence of others was believed to be swaying him in the matter. The old president jumped up in a huff and said:

"A. J. J. You always say it is somebody else! First it was Jonsin who did everything; then it was Neilson, and then it was Leyds. Well, Jonsin is done for; Neilson is dead; Leyds is in Europe! Who is it now?" Even in the meetings of the Transvaal parliament he frequently loses his temper and clears out of the house in a great passion. One day one of the members declared that the public works were badly administered. Then the president dashed down the papers he was holding and stalked out of the chamber, emphatically denying that the money had been wasted. On another occasion he bawled out of the Raad because someone suggested that a minister be kept in a room for a day. At yet another time he cried out: "If any one does not believe me let him call me a scoundrel at once!" The matter under discussion was official salaries. The president was in favor of the increase, and declared that if there was a falling off in the revenue he would at once reduce the salaries.

TRIBUTE FROM AN ENEMY.  
An English officer who had frequent occasion to meet the doughty Dutch-

GENERAL CORBIN.



General Corbin, whose latest photograph is seen above, announces that the Lawton fund now amounts to \$90,909.23. This generous contribution of the nation to the widow of the famous general will be presented to Mrs. Lawton when she arrives from the Philippines with the remains of her distinguished husband.

that he was refused admission by order of the goaler, and the spectacle of England's representative being turned away gave joy to the souls of Pretoria's small boys.

It is only necessary to say that upon an occasion when Du Plessis adopted the same tactics toward the Portuguese consul that gentleman proceeded at once to the presidency and demanded as his right free admission to the room whenever he chose to go, and the right was promptly recognized, although there was no subject of his government at the time within the precincts.

PRETORIA'S CAPTURE PLANNED

In view of Pretoria's importance now an account of a former scheme for taking the town is of interest.

An arrangement was made with Dr. Jameson to maintain a force of some 1,500 mounted men, fully equipped, a number of Maxim, and some field artillery; that he was in addition to this, to have with him 500 spare rifles and a quantity of spare ammunition, and that about 5,000 rifles, three Maxim guns and 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition was to be smuggled into Johannesburg. It was calculated that in the town itself there would be perhaps 1,000 rifles privately owned. Thus, in the event of a junction of forces being effected, Johannesburg would be able to command about 9,000 armed men, with a fair equipment of machine guns and a cannon.

Nor was this all, for on the original plan it was intended to seize the fort and magazines at Pretoria. And circumstances favored the plans of the Johannesburg men. The surrounding wall of the fort—a mere barrack—had been removed on one side in order to effect some additions; there were only about 100 men stationed there, and all except half a dozen could be counted on as being asleep after 9 p. m. There never was a simpler sensational task in the world than of seizing the Pretoria fort—50 men could have done it. But there was more to be done than the mere taking. In the fort there were known to be some 10,000 rifles, ten or twelve field pieces, and 12,000,000 rounds of small-arm ammunition, and it was designed to seize the fort and the railway on the night of the outbreak, and by means of one or two trains to carry off as much material as possible and destroy the rest. But this plan "never happened."

COMIC OPERA PARLIAMENT.

Despite their bravery, the Boers are a remarkably simple and unsophisticated people. To read through their parliamentary reports is simply a diversion to an American, for subjects are discussed by the Raad which could never be discussed in our Congress at Washington.

On one occasion a debate took place upon the clause that members should appear in the house in broadcloth and wearing white neckties. One member complained of the lack of uniformity in neckties. Some wore a Tom Thumb variety and others wore scarfs. This was a state of things to be deplored, and he considered that the Raad should put its foot down and define the size and shape of neckties!

On another occasion a protracted discussion took place on the postal report. The conservatives were opposed to erecting mail boxes on the lamp posts in Pretoria, on the ground that they were extravagant and effeminate!

One old Dopper said he could not see why people wanted to be always writing letters. He wrote none himself. In the days of his youth he had written a letter, and had not been afraid to travel fifty miles and more on horseback and by wagon to post it, and now people complained if they had to go one mile!

One day a company applied for permission to erect an aerial train from the mine to its mill. On this a member asked whether an aerial train was a balloon, or whether it could fly through the air, while another expressed his objection to a word in the application, "participeren" (participate), as not being Dutch, and to him unintelligible. "I can't believe the word is Dutch," he said. "Why have I never come across it in the Bible if it is?"

SCANT COURTESY FOR DE WET.

Very little courtesy was shown before hostilities broke out to the British resident at Pretoria—then Sir Jacobus de Wet. When the Reformers were in prison it was noticed that official representatives of other countries appeared to have unusual facilities offered them to visit the subjects of their government, whereas in the case of the British agent nothing of the sort existed.

Frequently he was observed standing outside the goal in the worst of weather without shelter, patiently waiting until the goaler would deem fit to see him. In the meantime the official would stroll through the yard making remarks to his subordinates, indicative of the satisfaction he experienced in keeping the representative of her majesty outside in the rain and mud. Upon occasions when he was afforded admission he was hustled through the yard by a warden and not allowed to hold private conversation with any of the prisoners. On several occasions he complained

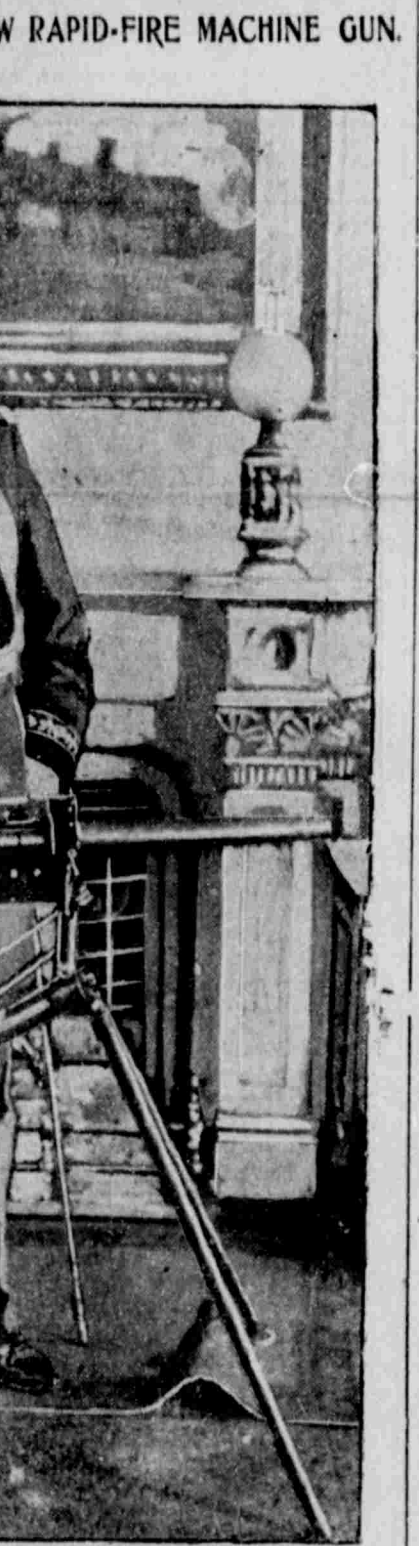
of field-guns of 295-inch caliber use shrapnel containing about 180 small balls. In the center of the shell is a charge of black powder, and in the head of the shell is a time fuse. This time fuse resembles in its working the combination mechanism of a safe-door lock. There is a graduated arc cut to seconds and fractions of seconds. Now, knowing the distance away of the enemy and the time required for the shell to travel that distance, the fuse is cut accordingly. I. e., a puncture is made through the walls of the fuse at the desired number of seconds. The discharge of the gun ignites, through the medium of a percussion arrangement, the fulminate, and at the expiration of the elapsed time the flame dashes into the powder chamber and the discharge follows. The effect of the burst is to release the small balls within. As the shell had a downward trend, it being near the end of its flight at the time of the burst the small balls are carried onward and downward. At the same time there is a slightly scattering effect. In general the trend of the shrapnel balls, following a burst, is that of a cone inverted.

The artillerymen endeavor to burst the shrapnel in the air at a point about 30 yards short of the enemy's position. The effect is very much akin to that of 180 sharpshooters suddenly opening fire on one head not over 20 yards away. In experiments made with the shrapnel for the United States field-guns of 3.2-inch caliber it was found that at a range of 1,000 yards the cone of dispersion is about sixteen degrees, which will cover a circle about twenty-seven feet in diameter at a distance of twenty-seven yards. The number of balls and fragments of the shrapnel contained within its cone of dispersion is about 360 for the 13.5-pound and 380 for the 15.5-pound shrapnel. The shells used in the United States field-guns are heavier, as a rule, than those employed in Europe. The 13.5-pound American shell contains 200 small balls and the 15.5-pound shell 236 balls.

At Omdurman, Lord Kitchener's force opened on the advancing dervishes with shrapnel at ranges in excess of 3,000 yards. The effect of the shrapnel bursts along the dervish lines, it is reported, was to mow down twenty-five to thirty men at each discharge.

The shell proper as employed in field-guns is used nowadays almost wholly in operations against buildings or against protected positions. Against exposed bodies of troops or forces of the enemy lying behind intrenchments shrapnel is brought into play. So im-

GENERAL MILES AND THE NEW RAPID-FIRE MACHINE GUN.



This new gun is portable and can be carried with ease by two men. It is not operated with a crank but by a trigger. With this new death dealing machine whole regiments can be mowed down, because its lightness and portability enables any number of the guns to be taken into action. General Miles thinks that the invention of this gun brings us one step nearer the millennium, for it adds to the impossibility of making war successfully.

ONE OF GENERAL BULLER'S HOWITZERS.

portant is shrapnel considered today that the ammunition supply for many field batteries in Europe consist of fifty-five per cent shrapnel and forty-five per cent shell and canister. The high velocities obtainable by reason of the introduction of smokeless powder and the fitting of recoil mechanism have yielded greater ranges for shrapnel. While 6,000 yards is recorded for field guns when using shell, a range of 3,500 yards is deemed maximum for shrapnel from the general type of field gun. The shrapnel balls depend on that velocity of the shell proper remaining just before the burst for their own velocity, and this remaining velocity must be sufficiently great to afford power to inflict dangerous wounds upon horses. The least energy essential is placed at 250 foot-pounds. For the average run of small balls employed, say 42 to the pound, an energy of 252 foot-pounds is obtainable from a remaining velocity of about 574 feet per second. This corresponds to a muzzle velocity of 1,500 foot-second, and affords an efficient shrapnel effect at 3,500 yards.

The French, however, in their endeavor to increase shrapnel powers have added to their artillery a number of howitzers of 120 millimeter calibre, designed almost exclusively for shrapnel work. These guns are employed with the small-calibre field-pieces. Now that the French fleet and army are reduced to four guns per battery it is surmised that the howitzers will be employed in independent organizations. The British have recently despatched to South Africa three full howitzer batteries, the only organization of the kind in the British service. These howitzers are counted upon to do efficient work. Lieutenant Godfrey L. Carden in Collier's Weekly.

THE VICTORIA CROSS FOR HEROES ONLY.

How the Most Coveted Decoration in England is Won and How It is Bestowed.

London, Jan. 11.—Lord Roberts of Kandahar, who will arrive at the Cape in a few days to take charge of the big British army that ever took the field, is a little man, as everyone knows, and there is not much room left on his coat for additional medals. You can see that for yourself by studying the accompanying picture of him, taken only a few weeks ago. But of all the honors befitting him, and all the others which a genuinely fond public has given him and will shower upon him later if he fulfills his hopes in the Transvaal, the simplest, the least expensive intrinsically, and by far the most democratic, is the one for which, if necessary, you may be sure he would sacrifice all the others.

It is the Victoria Cross, the first in the row on his breast.

Some of the humblest men, socially and financially, in the empire, have decorations just like it. But general and private, white man and black, each had the proudest moment of his life when that little bronze cross was laid upon his breast. And Lord Roberts, sailing away to fight on the field where his only son had just been slain, probably was supported in his sense of loss by the consensus of opinion that the action in which the young man lost his life would have won for him also the Victoria Cross if he had lived.

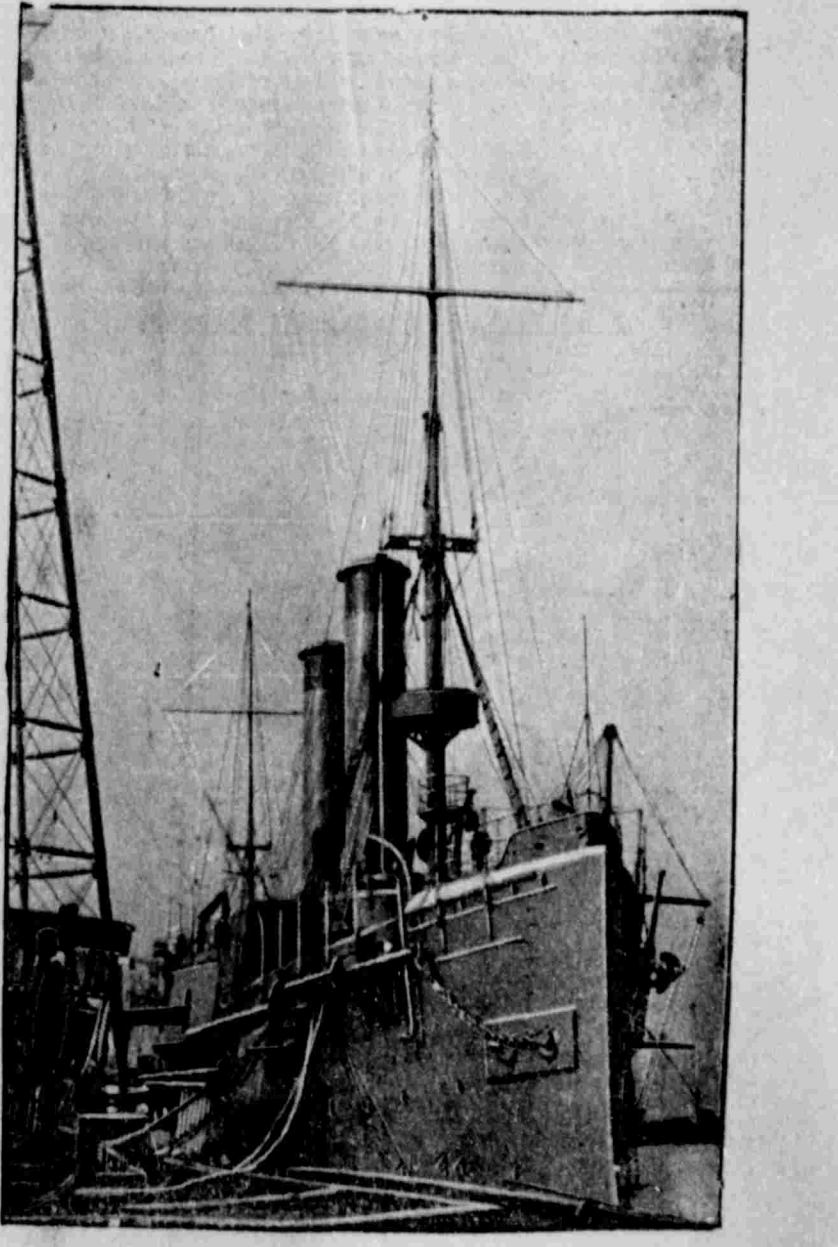
Lord Roberts won his V. C. in the Indian mutiny, when only a lieutenant, forty-one years ago, in the course of an action that was unpleasant enough to be named Khodasungur. While the fighting was going on, he saw two of the enemy—Sepoys—making off with the British colors. He was on horseback, and started after them when they turned on him and aimed their muskets at him. One missed him, the other's gun missed fire, and by that time he was on them, slashing away with his sword. He killed one. The other took to his heels, and the standard was safe. Only a few moments before the lieutenant had saved the life of one of his men by cutting down a Sepoy who was about to kill him with a bayonet.

Lord Roberts wears nine decorations on his breast on dress occasions, as the illustration shows, and how many more he may have no one feels sure; even the religious exact army list contents itself with naming five, and then says, breathlessly, "etc., etc."

In the picture one sees the general's six medals in a row, and three others beneath them. Of the medals, following from left to right, the first is the Victoria Cross; the second, the Indian mutiny decoration, with three bars; one for Delhi, one for Lucknow, and one for the relief of Lucknow; the third is the India medal for 1854, with three clasps—for Burmah, Umbeylah and Looshal, meaning that this officer distinguished himself afresh in each of these; the fourth is the Abyssinian medal; the fifth, the Afghan, and the sixth that of Kalakandahar, in recognition of his remarkable march and victorious battle with Ayub Khan. The large decorations beneath are orders—two above and one below. Those above again from left to right, are the Order of the Bath and the Star of India; that below, the Order of the Indian Empire.

Gen. Sir Redvers Buller is another Victoria Cross man. His decoration was granted to him for saving three lives in a retreat after a battle with the Zulus. He was then a captain and brevet lieutenant colonel. The Zulus were pressing the British troops hard, when an officer's horse was killed and its rider left in fearful danger. Buller galloped back, took the officer up behind him and carried him to a place of safety. Returning, he found a young lieutenant in pressing need, and he did not think of his own animal just fallen, exhausted, and for a third time Buller's horse carried a double load, and Buller exposed

SCHLEY'S FLAGSHIP "CHICAGO."



The necessity for an American squadron stationed at the Cape, to look after American interests in the event of international complications arising at that disturbed center, has it is understood, prompted the navy department to arrange for a special service fleet, under Admiral Schley, to proceed to South African waters. Admiral Schley will retain the Chicago as his flagship. The above photograph, taken just before the Chicago left for the present cruise, shows the cruiser after the improvements were made that practically remodelled her.