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KRUGER IS THE IDOL OF PRETORIA.

Fopularity 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.

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Pretoria, Jan. 2.-Kruger is more than ver the popular idol here, says a special pendent of the Cincinnati Enquir-The whole history of the Transvaal sters around this indomitable old ugher president and nearly every day me fresh incident of his life is passed on lip to lip by his admirers.

Money has played a curious part in Rruger's career. It must be reabered that the Transvaal was once unly annexed to the British empire, it that at that time Kruger and other stock office under the British govent. Kruger retained his office for stime after he had concerned himis the repeal agitation, he finally sition on being refused uneration for which he repeated applied. It is a curious any that if Oom Paul had been

man has, without losing any of his loyalty to the queen, been much impressed by Mr. Kruger, and thus describes him: Picturesque, as the figure of one who by his character and will made and held his people; magnificent, as one who in the face of the blackest fortune never wavered from his aim or faltered in his effort; who, with a courage that seemed and still seems fatuous, but which may well be called heroic, stood up against the might of the greatest empire in the world."

To the bravery of the Boers he also pays generous tribute. "It must be remembered," he says, "to their ever-lasting credit, that they, as did the Southerns in the American Civil War, robbed the cradle and the grave to defend their country. Boys who were mere children bore rifles very nearly as long as themselves; old men, who had surely earned by a life of hardship and exposure an immunity from such calls, jumped on their horses and rode without hesitation and without pro-

BOERS DRAGGING A GUN.



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 Eng-land's representative being turned away GENERAL MILES AND THE NEW RAPID-FIRE MACHINE GUN. gave joy to the souls of Pretoria's small boys.

of field-guns of 2.95-inch callber 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 arrange-ment, the fulminate, and at the expi-ration 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 with-in. 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 scat-tering effect. In general the trend of the shrapnel balls, following a burst, is that of a cone inverted. The artillerist endeavors to burst his 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 3.2inch caliber it was found that at a range of 1,000 yards the cone of disper-sion is about sixteen degrees, which will cover a circle about twenty-three feet in diameter at a distance of twen-ty-seven yards. The number of balls and fragments of the shrapnel con-tained within its cone of dispersion is about 650 for the 10 for and 850

tained within its cone of dispersion is about 260 for the 13.5-pound and 280 for the 16.5-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 16.5-pound shell 236 balls.

At Omdurman, Lord Kitchener's force opened on the advancing dervishes with shrappel at ranges in excess of 3,000 yards. The effect of the shrappel 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 shrappel is brought into play. So im-

THE VICTORIA CROSS FOR HEROES ONLY.

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

townown warmound and the second

London, Jan. 11 .- Lord Roberts of | himself to the enemy to save a comrade Kandahar, who will arrive at the Cape although the Zulus were not a hundre in a few days to take charge of the big. yards away. in a few days to take charge of the big-gest 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 betokened there, and all the others which a genuinely fond public has given him and will shower upon him later if he fulfils their 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 that fittle bronze cross was hard 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 concensus of opinion that the action in which the young man lost his life would have won for him also the Victoria have won for him also the Victoria Cross if he had lived.

Lord Roberts won his V. C. in the In-dian mutiny, when only a lieutenant, forty-one years ago, in the course of an forty-one years ago, in the course of an action that was unpleasant enough to be named Khodagunge. While the fight-ing 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 lieuten-ant had saved the life of one of his men ant 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 religiously 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 Vic-toria Cross; the second, the Indian mudecoration, with three bars, one for In 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 Looshai, mean-ing that this officer distinguished him-self afresh in each of these; the fourth is the Abyssinian medal; the fifth, the Afghan, and the sixth that of Kabul-Kandahar, in recognition of his remark. Kandahar, in recognition of his remark-able 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 lieu-tenant 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. Return-ing, he found a young lieutenant in pre-cisely the same fix, and he did the trick over again. When he got back a troop-er's animal had just fallen, exhausted, and for a third time Buller's horse carried a double load, and Buller exposed

ing it, backed by only a few men. A this time he was only a major in the fa mous Gordon Highlanders. They ad mous Gordon Highlanders. They ad vanced under a racking fire, and o reaching the top of the slope four themselves outnumbered ten to om Quick as a wink White grabbed a ris from one of his men and shot the Ai ghan chief. His followers became de moralized, and the Gordons route them. Later in the same campaign, i the march to Kandahar, Roberts ware the march to Kandahar, Roberts name White a second time in his dispatche for having rushed on ahead of his me and captured a gun. He ended by sue ceeding his superior officer in becomin commander in chief in India commander-in-chief in India.

I asked the officer in charge of th medal branch of the war office how | Victoria Cross was obtained after 1 had been won.

Why, there isn't as much red tap "Why, there isn't as much red tap about it as you would fancy," he sait "The action as a reward for which th cross is given must be performed "i the presence of the enemy,' and it I desirable that the superior officer of th man who distinguishes himself shoul have witnessed it. It happens some times, however, that no officer is pres ent, and in a case like that the candi date must prove by his companion that he really did do what he assert that he did. When his immediate su perior is satisfied that he ought to b rewarded he writes an account of th business and hands it to the officer h ommand of the forces and he indorse the papers and sends them on to th war office. Here they are laid befor Lord Woiseley, the commander-in-chie passes upon them and decides t whe which applicants the cross shall given.

"Of course, the cross goes most ofte, to a soldier, sallor or marine, and when it happens that the fortunate man 1 in England he receives his medal from the hand of the queen herself. If h is in the field, however, or on ship board, he receives his decoration from the general or admiral in chief com mand on the semi-annual inspection day and in the presence of the mer who were at the scene of his exploit." "Then men who have done braw things do apply personally?"

"Certainly they do. That is in keep ing with the spirit of the warrant which the queen first issued, in 1856, and which says that her majesty desires that the new decoration should be 'highly prize and eagerly sought after.' In tha warrant she said that as the third class Order of the Bath was limited to the officers in the higher branches o the service, and as no way then existed to reward heroes adequately for meritorious actions-for army medali of the ordinary kind are given only for long service and exceptional con duct-the Victoria Cross was instituted Sometimes it has happened that several men have done a deed deserving of the cross, without any one of then havi g distinguished himself above his comrades. In that case the several of ficers meet and select one officer to be decorated: the non-commissioned officer to be decorated, and the soldiers marines or seamen also gather and appoint two of their number to receive the crosses. "Besides the ceremony of presentation in the presence of his comrades," he went on, "the Victoria Cross man has his name mentioned in a general order from the war office, with the particulars of his heroism, and his name also appears in the London Gazette, likewise with an account of what he did and the original papers are kept sacredly in the archives of the war of-fice forever afterward. That register is probably the most democratic roll in Great Britain, for upon it the names of nobles and highly placed officers pre-(Continued on page 19.)

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

tiven that raise in his salary he might nd the present war might never have arred.

HIS FLAWLESS NERVE.

Agood story is told of Mr. Kruger as young man, which shows that he was fulle able to take care of himself. Once When out hunting on foot Mr. Kruger, effer climbing to the top of a kopje, fund that he had been seen by a numbe of hostile natives, who were then running toward him, some to climb the all others branching out to surround He knew that those on the flat ould cut him off before he could de-send, and that his only chance lay in ball." Stepping on to the outermost and down his rifle, drew off first one and then the other of his home-made de boots (in those poorer days worn whout socks), and, after guietly knock-is the sand out of them, drew them on thin. By this time the natives had doped to observe him. He then picked whis rifle again, and, turning to an approach to again, and, turning to an tiginary force behind the kopje, waved the right and then to the left, as such advecting them to charge round ach and of the hill. The next instant de Kaffire were in full retreat.

A TABASCO TEMPER.

When things upset his honor the readent things uppet his honor the readent he gets into a terrible tem-ie. During the early part of 1896, when the question of the release on ball of the reform prisoners seemed to be of the reform prisoners seemed to be of The moment, a well known Pretoria man friendly to the government, called two President Kruger and urged the Wesbility of allowing the prisoners at on bail, and with considerable lack A lact explained that it was well known that the oresident's humane nature in-tined him to be lenient, but that the main influence of others was believed to be swaying him in the matter. The other swaying him in the matter. of president jumped up in a buff and

"Ja, ja, ja! You always say it is smebody else! First it was Jonssin who did everything: then it was Nell-mapur, and then it was Leyds. Well, Jonsin is done for; Nellmapurr is dead; Leyds is in Europe! Who is it now?" Stream is done for: Nellmapurr is dead; leves is in Europe! Who is it now?" Even in the meetings of the Trans-val parliament he frequently loses his imper and clears out of the house in a great passion. One day one of the nembers declared that the public wrise were badly administered. Then the president dashed down the papers he president dashed down the papers a foot of him and stalked out of the a next of him and stalked out of the Rad, after emphatically denying that zoney had been wasted. On another consion he banged out of the Raad beause someone suggested that a min-ue keeper was necessary. At yet anthe keeper was necessary. At yet an-the keeper was necessary. At yet an-the une be cried out: "If any one day not believe me let him call me a har at once!" The matter under disas at once!" The matter under dis-casion was official salaries. The presi-tent was in favor of the increase, and declared that if there was a falling off in the revenue be a the revenue he would at once reduce the salaries.

TRIBUTE FROM AN ENEMY.

vision to fight for their independence all have been a loyal British subject None dare belittle the spirit which moved them to take up arms against the greatest power in the world. Their ignorance may have been great, but not so great as to blind them to the fact that they were undertaking an unequal contest.

COMIC OPERA PARLIAMENT.

Despite their bravery, the Boers are a remarkably simple and unsophisticat-ed people. To read through their parliamentary reports is simply a di-version 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 having white nectles. One member complained of the lack of uniformity in necktles. 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 necktles!

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 horse-back and by wagon to post if, and now people complained if they had to go one mile!

One day a company applied for per mission to erect an aerial train from the mine to its mill. On this a memthe mine to its mill. On this a mem-ber asked whether an aerial train was a balloon, or whether it could fly through the air; while another ex-pressed his objection to a word in the application, "participeeren" (partici-pate), 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 Brit-ish resident at Pretoria-then Sir Jacobus de Wet. When the Reformers were in prison it was noticed that of-ficial representatives of other countries appeared to have unusual facilities of-fered 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 un-til 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 sat-isfaction he experienced in keeping the representative of her majesty outside in the rain and mud. Upon occasions when he was afforded admission he At English officr who had frequent to not the doughty Dutch- 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

an account of a former scheme for tak-ing 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 Maxims, and some field ar-tillery; 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.

It is only necessary to say that upon

In view of Pretoria's importance now

Nor was this all, for on the original plan it was intended to seize the fort and magazines at Pretoria. And cir-cumstances 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 Pre-toria 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 sieze the fort and the railway on the night of the outbreak, and means of one or two trains to carry off as much material as possible and destroy the rest. But this plan "never happened."

DEATH-DEALING MACHINES.

There have been marked improvement in field and naval guns in the past five years and there have also been marked advances made in projectiles. The shrapnel which the English and Boers are using in South Africa is regarded as ahead of any shrapnel which has been used in recent warfare. Only a few years ago 2,000 yards was deemed the maximum range at which shrapped was effective. In South Africa and at Omdurman the British shrapnel has been used effectively at ranges of 3,500 yards. The shrapnel shell is an ordi-nary-looking projectile filled with a number of small balls. The majority



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 amunition 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 in-troduction of smokeless powder and the fitting of recoil mechanism have yield-ed greater ranges for shrapnel. While ed greater ranges for shrapnel. While 6,500 yards is recorded for field guns when using shell, a range of 3,800 yards is deemed maximum for shrapnel from the general type of field gun. The shrap-nel 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 danger. ous wounds upon horses. The least energy essential is placed at 252 foot pounds. For the average run of small balls employed, say 42 to the pound, an energy of 282 foot-pounds is obtainable from a remaining velocity of about 874 feet per second. This corresponds to a muzzle velocity of 1,600 foot-seconds, and affords an efficient shrapnel effect at 3,500 yards,

The French, however, in their endea. vor to increase shrapnel powers have added to their artillery a number of howitzers of 120 millimeter calibre, de-signed almost exclusively for shrapnel work. These guns are employed with the small-calibre field-pieces. Now that the French field artillery is to be reduced to four guns per battery it is surmised that the howlizers will be employed in independent organizations. The British have recently despatched to South Africa three full howitzer bat-

SCHLEY'S FLAGSHIP "CHICAGO."



The necessity for an American squadron search 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 flect, 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.

