

CRITICS ENTIRELY NONPLUSSED

By the Astounding Mobility of Boer Troops—The Reason for it is Found in the Military System which the Boers Originated and Brought to Perfection—How the Field Cornets Gathered Their Forces When the War Was Declared—The Transvaal Regulars.

The celerity with which the Boers mobilized their army in the beginning of the present war excited the admiration and the wonder of the whole civilized world, says the Cincinnati Enquirer. Their preparedness for the conflict showed that they had been arming and

disproportion to the number of the whole population is explained by the numerical superiority of women, great number of children in individual families (8 to 14 years), the ripe old age to which the Boers attain, etc. From the age of 5 the Boer child is accustomed to feel at home on horseback. At a very early age the boy is taught to

nate the calling out of the citizen troops—does not wear a uniform. THE REGULARS OF THE TRANSVAAL.

Besides these burghers there are two kinds of troops in the Transvaal. One consists of several thousands, not exceeding 5,000 artillery and about a similar number, but not exceeding 7,000 volunteers, organized similarly to our state troops. These are mostly settled near the cities, and meet occasionally for drill and exercise. The efficiency of the artillery is now a matter of history. The artillery, though small, is extremely well drilled, and has been instructed by German and French officers. These regular soldiers wear uniforms very similar to the British, with an admixture of the Dutch. For field service they are fitted out with khaki suits.

In addition to these troops there are Germans, French, Dutch, Irish and Afrikaner contingents. Of the great number of Uitlanders in Johannesburg and in the Transvaal it is safe to assume all the young and physically able, with the exception, of course, of the British, have placed their services at Oom Paul's disposal. The German contingent alone exceeds 4,000 men. The ceaseless flow of recruits through Delagoa Bay has greatly increased this foreign legion. Of the foreigners all are old soldiers, as in Europe every able man is liable to military duty.

With regard to the Orange Free State, the conditions of life prevailing among the Boers there are almost the same. The Free Staters muster 12,000 fighting burghers, and are under the command of General Albrecht.

At the receipt of a telegram consisting of one word, "Oorlog" (war), the field cornets aroused the whole country, reaching the most distant farm. Every burgher sped to the meeting place, and

also a political club; every now and then several of the local shooting societies arrange a "Wapenschau," which is an exhibition of shooting prowess and other athletic games, and which is distinctly national. No Englishman ever joined or was allowed to join in a Wapenschau. The feats of shooting performed here have earned the greatest respect of the local English. Every new defeat of the British arms brings them nearer to the possibility of a rising of the Cape Dutch. While thousands of them have joined the Boers already, many more are hesitating. The addition of such a well-drilled force to the Boer army would be a terrible blow to England. The two guides that misled General Buller are but a symptom of the feeling among the Dutch. They consider the British as intruders who have no right to the country. All the insolence, contempt and scorn shown them by the English are fresh in the mind of the Dutch. There is no nation that looks down upon the foreigner as the English. During the whole of the English occupation of South Africa they have treated the Boer as a little higher than the Kaffir. But the hour of reckoning has come.

PERNICIOUS INFLUENCE OF SALOONS.

The grand jury of Cook county Ill., recently closed an exhaustive inquiry and made a report of its work to Judge Waterman, in which stands the following just arraignment of the saloon: "We call attention to the growing pernicious influence of saloons. Witnesses before us have testified repeatedly to the fact that in saloons, which are the resort of thieves, hold-up men, and dissolute women, robberies and burglaries are planned, criminals with

well-known records issuing from these vile dens to waylay men, women and children. In many cases saloon-keepers and saloon employees serve as receivers of stolen property. In no less than six cases before this jury, it was shown that murders were committed either in the saloons or as the result of saloon influence. The police, when striving to detect criminals, at once visit the saloons, proving that these officers are aware of the character of the men who habitually fill them. The fact that, in the opinion of competent men, whose duties call them to the consideration of crime in Cook county 75 per cent of the criminal offenses committed within the county are traceable, directly or indirectly, to the saloon; and the further fact that the greater portion of the expense for the administration of justice and the regulation and punishment of crime, is caused by the evils of drink, are ample evidence that there should be immediate and stringent measures adopted for the suppression of the frightful evil of the influence of open saloons, which in far too many instances, are allowed to carry on their nefarious traffic in defiance of police regulations, city ordinances, and state laws. The regulation not to say the obliteration, of the saloons, would cause an enormous saving in county expense and the lessening of public taxes."—Advertiser Advocate

FLORAL BACTERIA.

A French naturalist, Domingos Froire, finds that on cultivation in suitable media several well known pathogenic bacteria can be developed from the anthers and stigmas of several species of flowers. Moreover, he found that several species of microbes, termed osmophiles, reproduce the odors of the flowers in which they occur.—Popular Science.

BOERS ATTACKING ARMORED TRAIN AT MODDERB.



The latest reports from Methuen admit the peril of his position. The mobile Boers swarm in all directions, turning up unexpectedly at the most unlooked for times and places. The armored train with which Lord Methuen's patrols are trying to keep the line of communication open is being constantly attacked and the Boers seem to be getting more and more aggressive in the rear of the British. The hurrying up of the newly-landed reinforcements show that the situation is regarded as perilous.

garding this false statement. I need only mention the fact that Boer children cannot enter the communion of the church unless they are able to read and write. No parent would bear the shame of raising boys and girls outside of the church. There is a newspaper in every hamlet. These, also, are not printed for Kaffirs and Uitlanders. Stanley's allegation that all languages but the Dutch are prohibited in the public schools has been thoroughly refuted.

"Stanley has the effrontery to lay the alleged crimes of the few individuals to

long as a single burgher remains alive in the South African Republic the war will not be ended. We are ready for peace on an honorable basis. While battling and shedding our blood we are willing to listen to any honorable propositions, but we will resist injustice both on English and Transvaal territory until the last man has breathed his last on the battle field. To escape the enslavement of the English our ancestors took refuge beyond the Orange river, and afterward retreated beyond the Vaal. In that little land where we are confined we only ask for peace and independence. We will

GEN. METHUEN, WHO WAS BEATEN BACK BY BOERS.



This is the British general whose great tactical skill and life-long war experience are not proving equal to the task of breaking the Boer force opposing the British march to Kimberley's relief.

boarding ammunition and supplies for some time back. The dispatch with which their troops were mobilized and brought to the front will be more readily understood when the conditions under which they live are taken into consideration. When in 1848 the Boers trekked into their present country to escape the oppression of their foes they found themselves face to face with hostile hordes of savages, ever on the alert to cut off stragglers and to attack isolated farms. Then was laid the foundation of the present military system of the Boers. To understand it one must bear in mind, first, that the Boers do not live in towns, only a few of them have made cities their residence, and these are mostly officials; the rest of the town population are foreigners.

WORK OF THE FIELD CORNET.

The farms of the Boers lie scattered over the whole of the country. Transvaal itself is larger than Great Britain and Ireland, and the population does not exceed now 289,000 white burghers, the foreign-born population not counted. The country is divided in field cornets; that is, military districts under the command of a field cornet. These stand in the closest communication with every single farm in the country. In times gone by a messenger from a farm would inform the field cornet of an attack by natives, and even then the mobilization system was so perfect that with the greatest dispatch the population of the whole district was alarmed and came to the rescue. As to the constitution of the Boer army, every male from 16 to 60 years of age is liable to military service. In the Transvaal the male population liable to military service is, according to the latest census, in the neighborhood of 30,000 men. The

handle his rifle. The constant Kaffir fights, encounters with the Zulus, Bechuanas and Basutos have made the Boer proficient in the arts of war. A great deal of his time the Boer spends on horseback or in the ox-wagon, trekking from one part of the country to the other. His nomadic habits oblige him to get his dinner with his rifle. This is one of the reasons for his excellent marksmanship. The high price of bullets have taught him not to miss a shot. When a Boer has three bullets he can reckon on three meals. The story is told of a Boer who went with an English officer shooting springboks.

TOO EXPENSIVE TO MISS.

The Briton had a bagful of cartridges, the Boer only his rifle. "Where are your cartridges?" asked the captain. "In my rifle; two springboks is all I can carry." "But suppose you miss?" "Nobody misses," answered the Boer, "when the cartridges are sixpence apiece." Therein is an explanation of their remarkable shooting.

With the introduction of the telegraph, and particularly since a war with England became inevitable, the mobilization of those burghers was put upon a thoroughly modern basis. Within an hour after the declaration of war every field cornet in the country had sent out his messengers to call the populace to arms. Every male from 16 to 60 saddles his horse, takes a supply of provisions, his rifle, his own ammunition and departs for the prearranged meeting place. Rifles and guns of the most modern pattern have been at various times distributed among the burghers by the government through the field cornet. The Boer goes to war willingly; he does not stick at the age limit; there are plenty of men above 60 and plenty of boys merely 14 in the ranks. The height of the Boer, the average being five feet ten inches, and his splendid physique, make a fourteen-year-old Boer a fairly matched antagonist to the eighteen-year-old British soldier, of whom there are too many in the British army. The burgher who has thus been "commandeered" to duty—this is the expression used to design-

LORD ROBERTS.



Lord Roberts, of Kandahar, familiarly known to Tommy Atkins as "Little Bob," is the sole remaining hope of the British army. If the Boers beat him as they have beaten the other British generals dark indeed will be the outlook for the empire.

THE AFRIKANDERS OF THE CAPE.

Perhaps one of the most important factors in deciding the campaign is the attitude of the Cape Afrikaners. It may not be generally known that the Cape Dutch are splendidly organized. Though less of a pastoral population than an agricultural one, the Cape Dutch never forgot the tradition of their race. They are not so often called upon to earn their sustenance by hunting, but nevertheless, they are splendid shots. Every village has a shooting society, which, as an open secret, is

STANLEY DENOUNCED BY LEYDS

European Agent of Transvaal Government—Charges the African Explorer with Mendiacity, and Alleges that He is Ignorant of African Conditions—The Boers Use Soap and are Educated—England's War of Conquest is for Gold.

That is what Dr. W. J. Leyds' European agent of the Transvaal government, has to say concerning the war: "The Transvaal Republic has been forced into an unjust war. My countrymen have an innate horror of war. I had hoped that the enemies of my country would at least spare her from outrage and calumny, and that they would venerate in our illustrious president the virtues of the people of whom he is chief. I was woefully deceived. Chamberlain attacks our liberty, Stanley our honor.

"Stanley has explored Central Africa. He also pretended to know the Transvaal thoroughly. He declares that he will not state anything of which he is not sure, and which might be contradicted. We will see.

"In the first place Stanley has only made one journey to Pretoria. He stopped for five or six days in Johannesburg, which in reality is not a Transvaal town, but rather a city of cosmopolitan speculators. There he only met friends of Cecil Rhodes and Jameson. Hence the information he received was not very trustworthy.

THE SOAP QUESTION.

"I need not mention a few of Stanley's calumnies to convince you of the lack of veracity in his assertions. I will not dwell on the infamous epithet of 'Old Chimpanzee' he applied to our illustrious president.

"Stanley says our peasants are strangers to soap. All who have visited the Transvaal farms praise the scrupulous cleanliness, characteristic of the Dutch encountered everywhere.

"Our many soap factories do not depend on Kaffirs and Uitlanders for patrons. Stanley claims that this very necessary commodity is prodigiously expensive in the Transvaal—30 cents

apiece. The official tariff quotes washing soap at six cents a pound and toilet soap at ten cents. You can't buy soap for that in the English factories. He makes a similar false statement regarding matches, for which we pay in the Transvaal three cents a box, while in England and other countries they are sold for five and ten cents per box. In contradiction to Mr. Stanley's affirmations I say that I have never seen a peasant Boer make use of a flint to light his pipe.

TAX ON COFFEE.

"Stanley reproaches us for not having taxed coffee, because the Boers consume such immense quantities of this article. Our tariff shows that coffee is taxed seven per cent ad valorem, like all other alimentary articles. I mention these minor matters so you may judge the more important allegations.

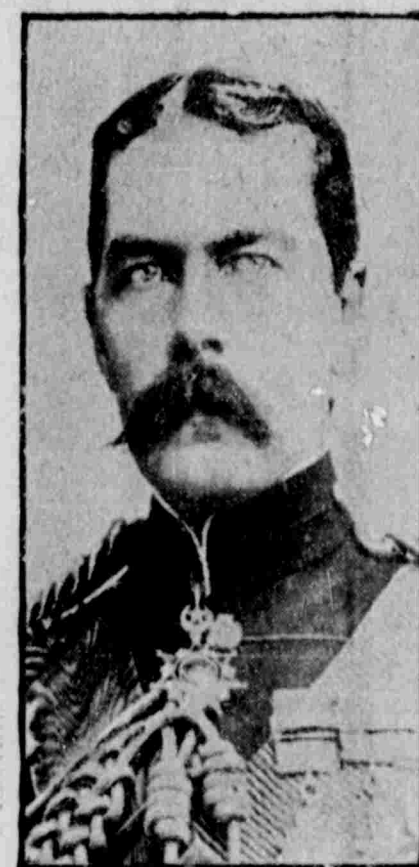
"Among these allegations is the one which claims that President Kruger's fortune owes its origin to the Transvaal monopolies. The accusation is a ridiculous one. All concessions to the monopolies were given by the Volksraad. President Kruger has nothing to do with them. Whatever revenue was imposed by the Volksraad went into the public treasury. The chief executive of the Transvaal Republic is scrupulously honest. And his popularity with the Dutch in South Africa is mainly due to this most excellent virtue.

"All Kruger's fortune was made by farming. From a small beginning he evolved into a wealthy land owner. He is economical and shrewd. His riches were made by the renting out and selling of farms all over the South African Republics.

EDUCATION IN GENERAL.

"The Boers are represented to the civilized world by Stanley as a semi-savage race, as brutes, who can neither read nor write. I have no patience with this man. I will not go into details re-

GENERAL LORD KITCHENER.



So urgent is deemed the necessity for the presence of the Soudan conqueror at South Africa that the cruiser Isis has taken him on board at Alexandria and will steam at a speed of sixteen knots an hour to the Cape.

the whole nation. He says that a Boer killed an English woman on the highway, seeking to imply that the Boers do not respect women. The Hollanders and their kin, the Boers, are noted for their kind treatment of their wives and children, and for the beauty of their home life. They are a hardy set, but affectionate and chivalrous.

A FEW COMPARISONS.

"Stanley, the chief of the great philanthropic (?) British expeditions in Central Africa, accuses us of cruelty toward the Kaffirs. I will admit that we have employed rigorous measures toward the Kaffirs, but these were necessary for self-protection, and they were tempered by a paternal application of the law. But these measures are not murderous like the massacre of the blacks in Rhodesia, where the British blew up a cavern with dynamite in which the unfortunate natives had taken refuge.

"Mr. Chamberlain used other tactics to precipitate hostilities. He represented us simply as traitors to the British crown, as rebellious vassals. This theme inspired the British diplomacy and that of Mr. Milner. It made many dupes in England and Cape Colony, and even on the European continent. I am intrusted with documents, open to inspection by the courts and the press of Europe, which prove conclusively that the Transvaal has been recognized since 1864 as an absolutely independent state by the British government. Great Britain can no more claim suzerainty over us than France or Germany.

"We have our diplomatic representatives in every land, and even in England. Our consul-general at London received his commission from Queen Victoria, and vice versa, England's consul in Pretoria from President Kruger. Are these the relations of a vassal state and a suzerain power?

BRITAIN FIGHTING FOR SPOILS.

"I reiterate that greed for gold and imperial conditions have caused civilized England to relapse into a barbarian power that raises war without any other motive than of spoils.

defend ourselves and the principles for which we fight to the death. "Thus far fortune has favored us, and it appears from the history of the war that God is with our arms."

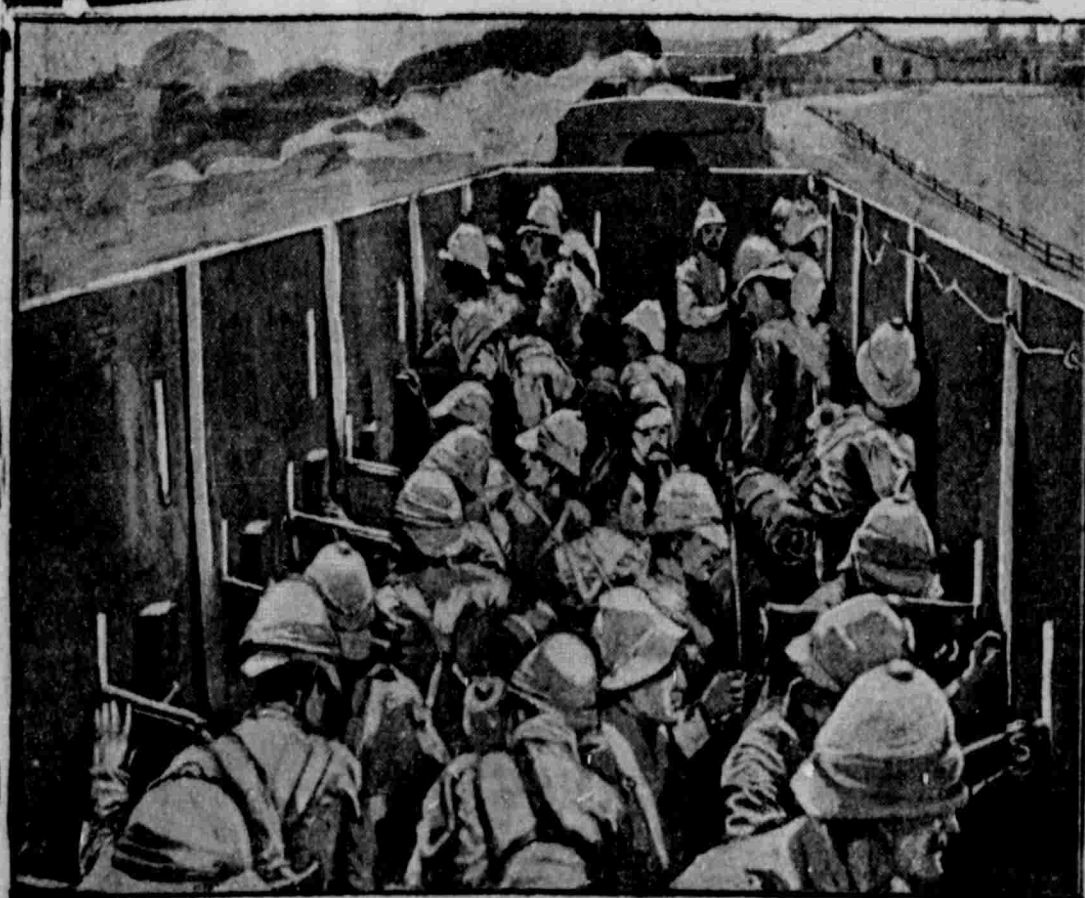
A FRENCH COURT DECISION.

Very curious things continue to happen in France. A French court of appeals has lately decided that a periodical which prints a critical review of an author's work is bound to publish the author's reply to the critic's strictures. This decision seems to put the French press at the mercy of authors who can, if they choose, take up most of the space in the reviews by their answers. The most obvious remedy would be to stop reviewing the books of all authors who are inclined to talk back, and that is feasible enough, though it might cause embarrassment to literary journals. Successful and well-paid authors, it may be observed, are rarely willing to spend their time refuting critics. It is the writers who can't write and whose time is not valuable, who would inundate the reviews with their recriminations.—Life.

HOW GOOD ENGLISH IS REALLY LEARNED.

If the pupil always hears correct English from his teachers and is always corrected when he uses incorrect English he will acquire a correct use of the language without spending several years studying books devoted to rules and their many exceptions, diagrams, parsing, spelling lists, etc. After the pupil has learned to use correct English, while learning something else which he writes and talks about, five hours a week for one school year is all that is necessary for the systematic teaching of English grammar.

AN ARMORED TRAIN SORTIE FROM LADYSMITH.



If General White has to cut his way through the besieging Boers at Ladysmith this moving fort will be the wedge he will use to make an opening.