

# SECRET SERVICE AMONG THE BOERS.

THE South African war has shown one thing in which the Boer is superior to the English, and that thing is secret service. As a spy the burgher of the Transvaal has no equal, as the English have found to their cost.

Since the opening of hostilities there has scarcely been a move made on the part of the British that did not seem to be fully anticipated by the Boers. In fact, the different signal defeats which have befallen British arms during the South African campaign may be attributed to the efficiency of the Boer secret service.

Oom Paul and Joubert, it is well

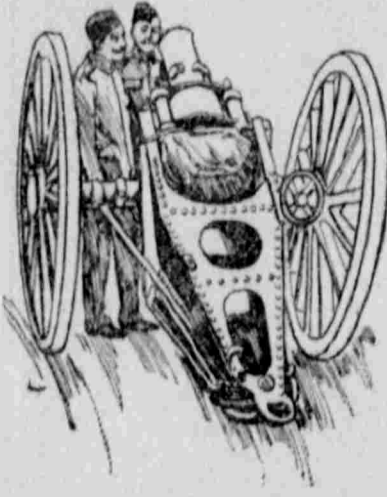
out of information. The present situation in South Africa is something like that in the Philippines. Officers find it difficult to determine just who are friendly and just who are to be counted among the enemy. How many spies, for instance, there may be among the supposedly disaffected burghers of the Cape it is impossible to tell. This peculiar position of affairs forced General Gatacre not long ago to issue a proclamation that any Cape Colony burgher traveling from town to town would be arrested on suspicion. He forbade them to go to market towns often than once a week. This was obviously to prevent the dissemination

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ingly against a Boer force thoroughly prepared to meet them has naturally given her majesty's officers a very disagreeable consciousness that their movements were only too well known by the enemy. In fact it is known that Cape Town itself is full of Boer spies, yet no effective move can be made toward stopping their operations. The knowledge which the Boer possesses of the country, his well guarded means of secret communication and the mobility

## THE HOWITZER IN WAR.

The accompanying illustration shows the type of howitzer used by the British bluejackets during the siege of Ladysmith by the Boers. These howitzers were used for throwing shells up over the hills that surround Ladysmith



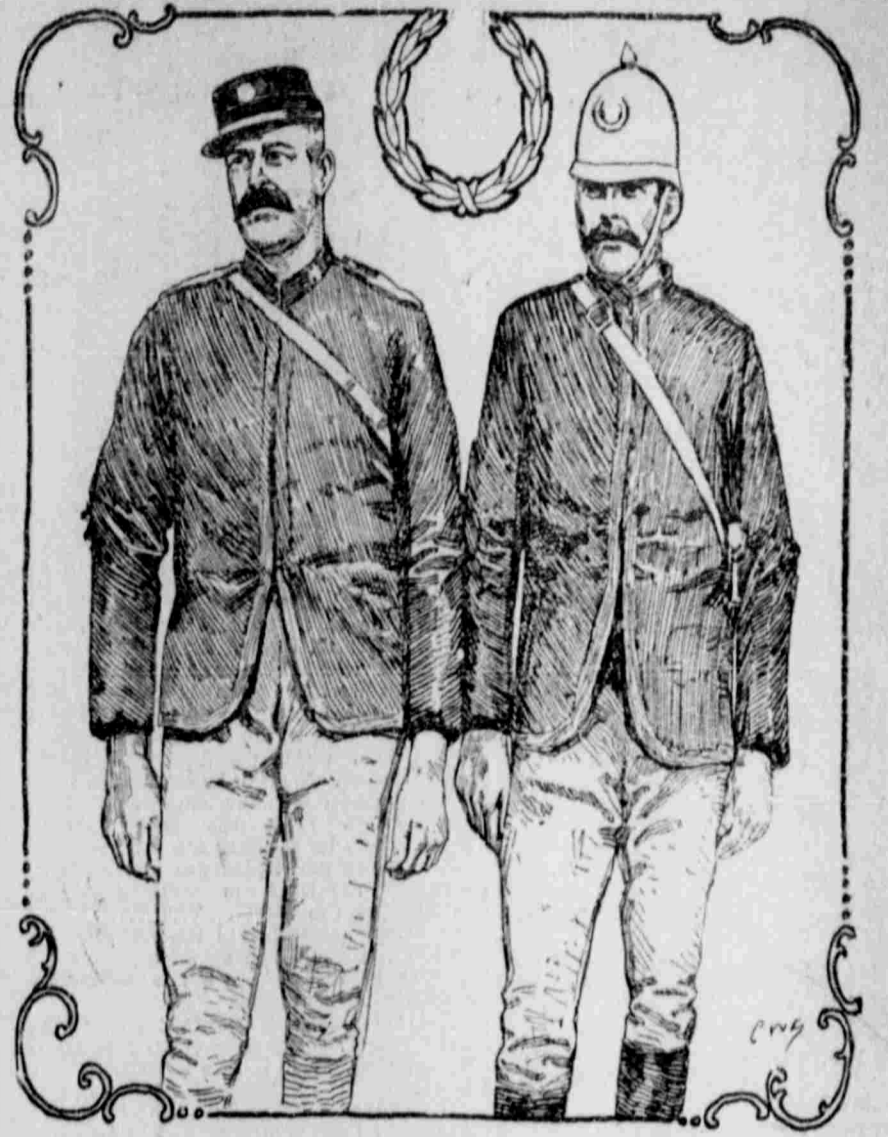
and dropping them behind the Boers' natural fortifications of rock and kopje. As a general rule, though, the howitzer is being supplanted by more accurately firing field artillery on the one hand and the machine gun on the other, though it was effectively made use of by General Methuen at the second battle of Modder River.

## THE KRUGER PENNY.

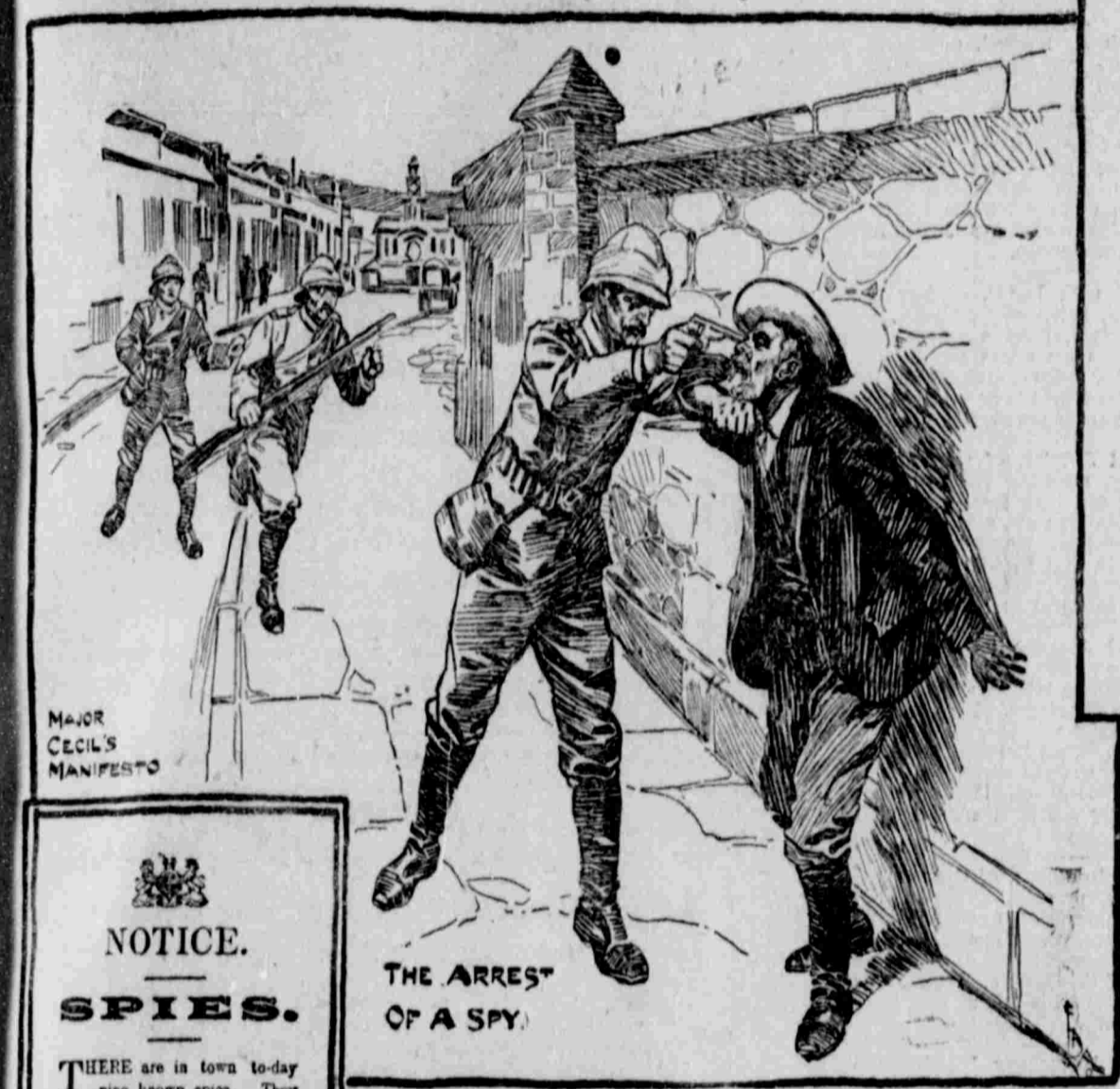
The accompanying little illustration shows the head of that interesting coin of the South African Republic known as the "Kruger penny." This penny is embellished with the classic features of the president of the Transvaal and bears the inscription, "Zuid Afrik. Republiek." Although the coin is an interesting one, it is not likely, judging from the present situation, that it will be in general circulation for a great length of time.



## BOER POLICEMEN OF JOHANNESBURG.



Among the familiar and more or less amusing sights of the city of Johannesburg are the big, stalwart Boer policemen who ride about the town maintaining peace and order according to the laws of the redoubtable Oom Paul. These policemen are not the most military looking individuals in the world, for more often than not their outlandish looking uniforms are two or three sizes too small for them, and when once dismounted they seem to be nothing but hands and feet. On their horses, however, they are the most expert of riders and can manage to keep their seat on any sort of mount.



THE ARREST OF A SPY.

**NOTICE.**

**SPIES.**

THERE are in town to-day a few known spies. They are hereby warned to leave before 12 noon to-morrow or they will be apprehended.

By order  
E. R. CECIL, Major,  
C. S. G.

Mafeking.

Known, have spies everywhere, and, owing to the peculiar conditions under which the war is being carried on, it is practically impossible for the British authorities to put a stop to the leaking

of information regarding the movement and disposition of the British forces. In the town of Mafeking, too, early in the war, Major Cecil was forced to post up notices to the effect that information had reached him that spies were operating in the town, and that unless the same left Mafeking by noon of the following day they would be apprehended and punished according to the law governing all such cases. The startling number of times the British forces have been led into ambushes or have marched unsuspect-

of his forces all unite to neutralize the advantage which his enemies possess in their more perfect organization, in discipline, and in superiority of numbers. It explains to a great degree just why the little republics of South Africa have been able to make such an excellent showing when facing the most powerful and the most aggressive empire in existence at the present day.

While the Boer is by no means a diplomat, he is, in state and political affairs, always a wily and foxy schemer. This perhaps explains just why the se-

cret service system of the Transvaal is the most extensive and the most effective affair of its kind in existence. When it is remembered that the "simple minded veit burgher" has such an adroit and experienced secret service agent on the continent as Dr. Leyds and it is borne in mind that this official receives a salary of \$80,000 a year for his services, some idea of the faith which Oom Paul places in his spy system may be secured. Dr. Leyds goes



DR. W. J. LEYDS.

## AN AFRICAN QUEEN AT HOME.



The accompanying illustration is from a photograph of the queen of Swaziland and shows her majesty sitting in front of the sanboti, or royal kraal, with a royal princess of the Swazis on either hand. This royal kraal is near Bremersdorp, and it is interesting to know that this is the first photograph ever taken of the queen, who is known to her people under the name of Umhlagovas. Swaziland, by the way, is one of the most prosperous of the British dependencies in Africa, for, unlike their cousins, the Zulus, the Swazis prefer following agricultural and pastoral pursuits. They are a hospitable and democratic people, the women working in the fields along with the men and both living on the fruits of their industry when they have passed middle life.

## THE WIFE OF GENERAL BULLER.

The accompanying picture is from the latest photograph of Lady Audrey Buller, the talented and gracious wife of the English general who has been fighting the Boers in South Africa. Lady Buller is no longer a young woman, for she has a daughter who has just made her debut into the London social world. She has, nevertheless,



shown herself one of the most energetic of the many English noblewomen who have been interesting themselves in alleviating the sufferings of the English sick and wounded at the Cape. Owing to the recent severity of the fighting, there seems plenty of opportunity ahead for all such relief work.

## A FROLIC SOME YOUNG ORPHAN.



Here is a very "cute" little baby lion who, though just 4 months old, is quite willing to pose for his picture. He is at present an inmate of Sanger's menagerie and is known by the name of King George. Just at present he is a very docile little fellow, whose favorite playmates are two nervous looking cats who fly from the caresses of his big cushioned paws as he springs upon them. On the whole he is a remarkably gentle little beast, having a great affection for his keeper, who carries him about in his arms like a child. King George, by the way, is an orphan, and, after the death of his mother, a large dog was secured as a foster mother for him.

## INDIAN BEARERS IN SOUTH AFRICA.



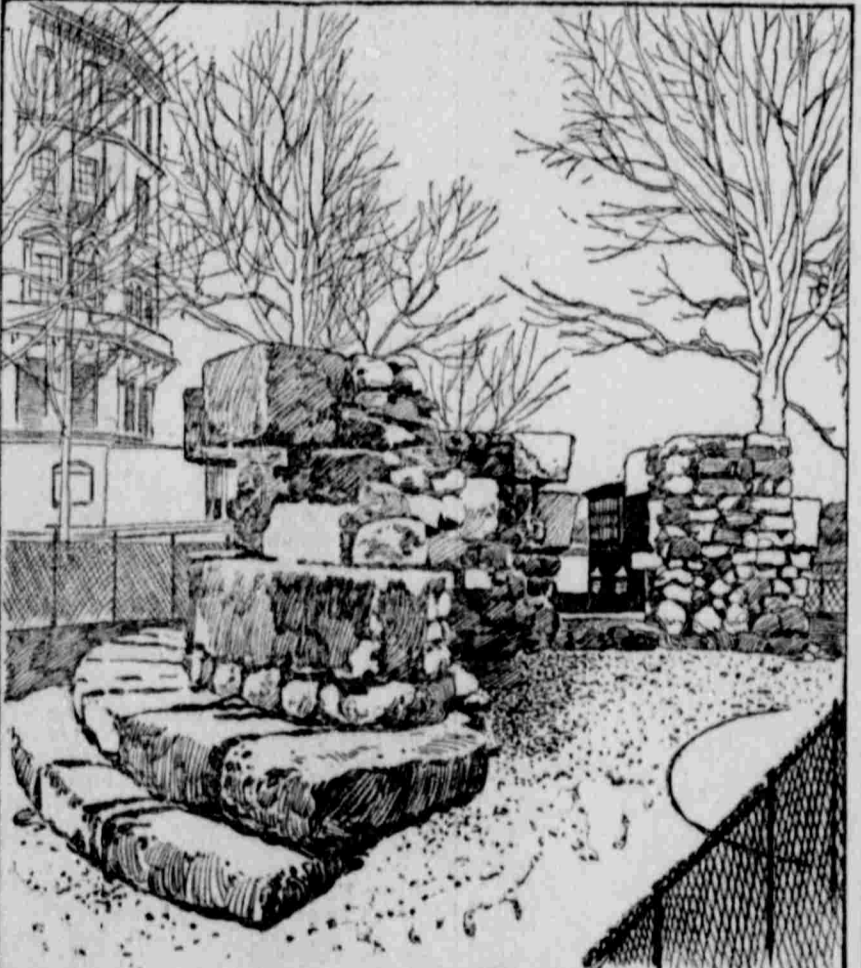
When the British empire is at war, as might be said of that empire during the present time, the war office is able to call upon subjects from all corners of the earth. Canadians, Australians, Irishmen, East Indians—all are ready to respond to the call of the homeland, and curious indeed are some of the forces which go to the front under the Union Jack. Perhaps the most outlandish element in this motley army are the Indian bearers who did such good work at and after the battle of Rietfontein. Although acting only in the capacity of nurses and camp followers, these experienced and intrepid gatherers of the wounded were the means of saving many a Britisher's life by the dispatch and thoroughness with which they went over the battlefield and carried the wounded to places of safety, where surgeons and stimulants were awaiting them.

## A COQUELIN MEDALLION.

Coquelin, the French actor, is not altogether a handsome man, though a certain Parisian artist has seen fit to put the profile of the great comedian on a medallion, the character of which may be judged from the accompanying little illustration. This medallion was created in commemoration of Coquelin's very successful presentation of Rostand's great play of "Cyrano de Bergerac," with which Coquelin made a hit in both Paris and London before it was taken up in America by Richard Mansfield.



## THE TOWER OF LIBERTY.



There is at present an agitation going on in Paris for the purpose of bringing about the removal of the remaining foundation stones of the ruined Tower of Liberty, famous for its associations of the time of the commune. These few foundation stones belonging to this once historic tower, the remnants of which are shown in the accompanying illustration, now stand in the Rue St. Antoine, and it has been suggested to remove them to the park facing the Pont Sully on the Boulevard Henry IV.

## AN EAST INDIAN'S IDEA OF FALSTAFF.



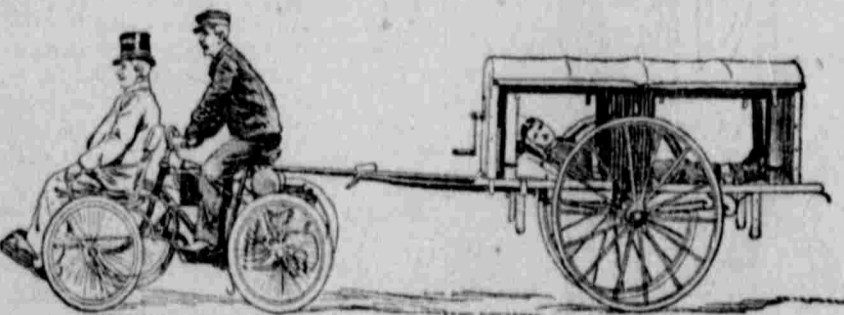
Perhaps the most unique impersonation of Falstaff ever seen on a stage was that of Mr. Goolamhoosain Rahimtoola Khairaz, a promising young native actor, who is at present an East Indian student in St. Xavier college, at Bombay. At an early age this same Mr. Goolamhoosain betrayed a strong inclination for the stage, and this taste was fostered by his teachers. In 1895 he made his debut as an actor in a play called "Scenes From the Hidden Gem," and last year he undertook to interpret to Bombay audiences the drollery of Sir John Falstaff, with considerable success. The accompanying illustration shows this promising young actor in his Falstaff costume.

## A HISTORIC FONT.

Here is an antique baptismal font that has been in active service for over 600 years. This old font stands in Pitstone church, near the town of Tring, in Hertfordshire, England, and it is estimated that at least 50,000 infants have been christened beside it. This old and much used font is still in a remarkable state of preservation, considering its age, and in all probability many thousands more christenings will be celebrated before it. The font is an extremely large one and is of gray-stone, now well worn and rounded with age.



## A NEW KIND OF AMBULANCE.



One of the latest conveyances to be adopted by the ingenious and inventive Parisian is the quadricycle ambulance, the general character of which may be realized from the accompanying illustration. While this sort of hospital conveyance may be practical on the smooth boulevards of the French capital, there is little danger of its general adoption in the United States. As used in Paris at present, the new ambulance is provided with a seat for the surgeon, behind whom sits the operator of the motor drawing the two wheeled carriage in which reclines the patient.

## LITTLE POINTS OF INTEREST.

A Vienna scientist has written a learned article to prove that dogs laugh. The fastest cruiser in the world has recently been completed for China. The new cruiser is to be known as the Hai Tien, of 4,000 tons, and under natural

draft will have a speed of 23.6 knots per hour. At this rate she could cross the Atlantic in about four and a half days. In Boston spectacled policemen are frequently seen on the streets. The London Daily Mail refers to the French journalists who have been abus-

ing Queen Victoria as "the absinth-minded beggars." The Austrian postoffice is to try a "telegram card," on which a person writes a message and posts it in the usual way, but the postoffice telegraphs the contents, which are delivered to the addressee by the postman. The plan is a combination of the post and telegraph

and seems useful as having a cost and speed intermediate between post and telegraph. Fifty-seven new cotton mills have been built in the south during the past 12 months. Australia has on the average one hospital for every 12,399 persons. Dr. R. J. Gatling has just invented

an automobile plow. It is built on the principle of the ordinary automobile, with disk plows so arranged as to do the work of the implements now in use. The idea is to operate a machine by a single man. It is claimed that it will do the work of eight men and 12 horses. Either gasoline or kerosene may be used. It can also be used in driving a

thrasher, shelling corn or for other purposes. Another machine is for the cottonfields and is designed for "thinning out" cotton plants in their early growth. A London physician declares that a person in robust health walks with his toes pointed to the front, while one with his health on the wane gradually

turns his toes to the side, and a bend is perceptible in his knees. Norwegian statesmen are planning a system of national insurance to protect people incapacitated to earn a livelihood. There is a cafe in Venice which has not been closed night or day for 150 years.