

# THE THEATER OF WAR IN THE ORANGE FREE STATE.

The Garden Spot of the Smaller of the Boer Republics—Difficulties of Campaigning Above Winburg, Where the Mountains Begin.

HISTORY has its little ironies, as two great wars of England have shown. When it was Elizabeth who sat on the English throne and not Victoria, and when the pompous Philip of Spain sent his great armada swarming up the channel to crush the power of the insolent Anglo-Saxon for all time, it was the Britisher in those days who occupied very much the same position as does the Boer of today.

In the present South African war Great Britain has been the swiftest of the little country's independence. English generals have boasted that they would two step into Pretoria and wait into Johannesburg. That was practically what good King Philip, three centuries ago, said about London and Chatham. He had behind his boast a fleet that was stupendous in its magnificence and apparent strength. The Spaniard was a great fighter in those days, and Spain thought England would be easy.

Just so with the British and the army that went down to the Cape. But there was something which neither the Spaniard of the Elizabethan era nor the Briton of the Victorian period counted on. It was that forgotten something which in each case led to the humiliation of the more powerful nation. It was that forgotten something which cast consternation over the great glittering galleons of King Philip when the little, quick sailing English cruisers dogged their heels and sent them scattered and broken along the coast of the

ing 47 degrees. The nights, however, are always startlingly chilly. The thermometer seldom goes down to the freezing point even up in the hills, but a temperature of 40 degrees F. is no uncommon thing. This is also the dry season, and water is an important consideration with a great army.

The hills and mountains of the northern Free State country begin at Winburg and run in parallel lines east and west. It is more or less a duplication of

more or less hilly country, but between the hills are warm and fertile valleys. This is the great grain region of the Orange Free State. It is also comparatively well watered and has quite a number of flourishing towns.

It was early announced that the main Boer position in this territory was on a range of hills crossing the railway at right angles about midway between Kroonstad and Smaldeal. A few weeks ago it was held that 35,000 Boers were

swell the Boer forces to the figures which reports of a few weeks ago credited Com Paul's people with having.

It has already been said that the British army in Africa has been operating a good deal like the Spanish armada in the English channel. One of the reasons why this great army, the largest force Great Britain has had in the field during all the century, has proved so unwieldy and so snail-like and cumbersome in its movements is the fact that the commissariat department of a division of Tommy Atkins has developed into such a gigantic and elaborate affair. The Boer, it might almost be said, has no such thing.

He carries his blitting in his pocket and he feeds his horse on the veldt. He has no costly uniforms to keep polished up, no corps of cooks and camp followers to look after, and when he wants

is how the English soldier has to be reckoned with. And if he does not get these things he falls as a fighting machine. And it is no easy thing to keep him fed and clothed. It means immense trains of supply wagons, which must trail after every column, and, if the column is a mounted one, deplorably delay its progress. Isolation, too, under such circumstances and in such a country as South Africa, would be fatal; so all lines of communication must be kept open for the bringing in of fresh supplies.

We hear very little, on the other hand, of the Boers' commissariat, but, of course, they have such a thing. The followers of Botha must have suffered considerably at times from scarcity of food and lack of proper shelter in the field, though little has been said of it. They are of different stock from the

on the part of the Boers. This will give some idea of the number of men that Roberts has had to scatter along his wake and must still find broadcast across the country wherever he wishes to penetrate.

The gigantic detour of Major General Carrington and his mounted division has been a unique feature of the present phase of the campaign. He has been called the upper millstone of the machinery that is designed to grind the Boer forces into submission. It has been anticipated that when once the Transvaal was well occupied by the British and when the union jack had been hoisted over the fort and a large number of the Boers will drift in scattering bodies across the Limpopo river and up into Rhodesia. Some state that the line of retreat will lie through Swaziland, but the Limpopo will prove easier to cross than the mountain fastnesses of the Drakensberg. Carrington will be there in Rhodesia watching for that "back wash" and will do his best to take care of it. The upper and lower British lines, it is hoped by the commanders of the force, will gradually converge, and in doing so shut in any stray bodies of escaping burgher warriors who otherwise might get up into Rhodesia and there carry on a guerrilla warfare that only months and perhaps years of vigilance could put to an end. It is a very pretty scheme, but the world has seen equally pretty schemes of the British laid low during this present campaign.

The one great embarrassing feature of this war has been the fact that much of the fighting has been carried on by the British in territory with an unsympathetic population, amid a people, in fact, who promised to rise in arms at any time. The situation in Cape Colony, accordingly, has been a perpetual menace, and, indeed, this colony has really been feeding the forces of the Boers with fresh men for six months. A great effort was made by Roberts to tickle the fancies of the Free State and win them over to his side during and after the occupation of Bloemfontein. The "slim" Boers appeared to swallow the pill, but really remained very much the same as they had been before. Most of the enthusiasm and the slopping over about the English reception in the Free State capital was professional and short lived, and it was soon seen that the stout burghers of that state were not falling over themselves with joy at the English occupation to the degree which official dispatches would lead one to believe. This old story of the overconfidence of the British once more caused them to make the same old mistake.

Perhaps the greatest value of this campaign will be that it gradually

## CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.

Joseph Hatten tells an interesting story of one of the strange happenings at the British museum. A prince was visiting at Windsor castle last week, the only one of its kind known to be in existence. The keeper took him into a private room, and with much solemnity, drew forth the precious coin. The prince examined it with the greatest interest and a suppressed excitement which indicated that he, too, was a collector of coins.

The keeper turned away for an instant and heard something fall.

"I have dropped it!" exclaimed the prince.

The keeper joined him in his search, but nowhere could the coin be found.

"Ten, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400, 410, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 480, 490, 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, 600, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 670, 680, 690, 700, 710, 720, 730, 740, 750, 760, 770, 780, 790, 800, 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890, 900, 910, 920, 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, 1000, 1010, 1020, 1030, 1040, 1050, 1060, 1070, 1080, 1090, 1100, 1110, 1120, 1130, 1140, 1150, 1160, 1170, 1180, 1190, 1200, 1210, 1220, 1230, 1240, 1250, 1260, 1270, 1280, 1290, 1300, 1310, 1320, 1330, 1340, 1350, 1360, 1370, 1380, 1390, 1400, 1410, 1420, 1430, 1440, 1450, 1460, 1470, 1480, 1490, 1500, 1510, 1520, 1530, 1540, 1550, 1560, 1570, 1580, 1590, 1600, 1610, 1620, 1630, 1640, 1650, 1660, 1670, 1680, 1690, 1700, 1710, 1720, 1730, 1740, 1750, 1760, 1770, 1780, 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060, 2070, 2080, 2090, 2100, 2110, 2120, 2130, 2140, 2150, 2160, 2170, 2180, 2190, 2200, 2210, 2220, 2230, 2240, 2250, 2260, 2270, 2280, 2290, 2300, 2310, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2350, 2360, 2370, 2380, 2390, 2400, 2410, 2420, 2430, 2440, 2450, 2460, 2470, 2480, 2490, 2500, 2510, 2520, 2530, 2540, 2550, 2560, 2570, 2580, 2590, 2600, 2610, 2620, 2630, 2640, 2650, 2660, 2670, 2680, 2690, 2700, 2710, 2720, 2730, 2740, 2750, 2760, 2770, 2780, 2790, 2800, 2810, 2820, 2830, 2840, 2850, 2860, 2870, 2880, 2890, 2900, 2910, 2920, 2930, 2940, 2950, 2960, 2970, 2980, 2990, 3000, 3010, 3020, 3030, 3040, 3050, 3060, 3070, 3080, 3090, 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, 3180, 3190, 3200, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3250, 3260, 3270, 3280, 3290, 3300, 3310, 3320, 3330, 3340, 3350, 3360, 3370, 3380, 3390, 3400, 3410, 3420, 3430, 3440, 3450, 3460, 3470, 3480, 3490, 3500, 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5170, 5180, 5190, 5200, 5210, 5220, 5230, 5240, 5250, 5260, 5270, 5280, 5290, 5300, 5310, 5320, 5330, 5340, 5350, 5360, 5370, 5380, 5390, 5400, 5410, 5420, 5430, 5440, 5450, 5460, 5470, 5480, 5490, 5500, 5510, 5520, 5530, 5540, 5550, 5560, 5570, 5580, 5590, 5600, 5610, 5620, 5630, 5640, 5650, 5660, 5670, 5680, 5690, 5700, 5710, 5720, 5730, 5740, 5750, 5760, 5770, 5780, 5790, 5800, 5810, 5820, 5830, 5840, 5850, 5860, 5870, 5880, 5890, 5900, 5910, 5920, 5930, 5940, 5950, 5960, 5970, 5980, 5990, 6000, 6010, 6020, 6030, 6040, 6050, 6060, 6070, 6080, 6090, 6100, 6110, 6120, 6130, 6140, 6150, 6160, 6170, 6180, 6190, 6200, 6210, 6220, 6230, 6240, 6250, 6260, 6270, 6280, 6290, 6300, 6310, 6320, 6330, 6340, 6350, 6360, 6370, 6380, 6390, 6400, 6410, 6420, 6430, 6440, 6450, 6460, 6470, 6480, 6490, 6500, 6510, 6520, 6530, 6540, 6550, 6560, 6570, 6580, 6590, 6600, 6610, 6620, 6630, 6640, 6650, 6660, 6670, 6680, 6690, 6700, 6710, 6720, 6730, 6740, 6750, 6760, 6770, 6780, 6790, 6800, 6810, 6820, 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8490, 8500, 8510, 8520, 8530, 8540, 8550, 8560, 8570, 8580, 8590, 8600, 8610, 8620, 8630, 8640, 8650, 8660, 8670, 8680, 8690, 8700, 8710, 8720, 8730, 8740, 8750, 8760, 8770, 8780, 8790, 8800, 8810, 8820, 8830, 8840, 8850, 8860, 8870, 8880, 8890, 8900, 8910, 8920, 8930, 8940, 8950, 8960, 8970, 8980, 8990, 9000, 9010, 9020, 9030, 9040, 9050, 9060, 9070, 9080, 9090, 9100, 9110, 9120, 9130, 9140, 9150, 9160, 9170, 9180, 9190, 9200, 9210, 9220, 9230, 9240, 9250, 9260, 9270, 9280, 9290, 9300, 9310, 9320, 9330, 9340, 9350, 9360, 9370, 9380, 9390, 9400, 9410, 9420, 9430, 9440, 9450, 9460, 9470, 9480, 9490, 9500, 9510, 9520, 9530, 9540, 9550, 9560, 9570, 9580, 9590, 9600, 9610, 9620, 9630, 9640, 9650, 9660, 9670, 9680, 9690, 9700, 9710, 9720, 9730, 9740, 9750, 9760, 9770, 9780, 9790, 9800, 9810, 9820, 9830, 9840, 9850, 9860, 9870, 9880, 9890, 9900, 9910, 9920, 9930, 9940, 9950, 9960, 9970, 9980, 9990, 10000.

"Come, let us find it," said the prince, looking the prince straight in the eye.

"Not until you restore the coin I have lost in your hand. You cannot leave this room until you give it back."

"What! One would think from your manner that—"

"Come, let us find it,"

The prince bit his lip, turned pale and resumed the search. At the end of an hour he declared his determination to leave the place.

"If you insist," said the keeper, "I will be my painful duty to call an officer and have you searched."

The prince leaned against the wall, completely overpowered.

"Do you mean that?" he gasped.

"I do."

"Then we must continue the search."

Every nook and cranny was re-examined. After awhile the prince sat down, the picture of despair, when suddenly the keeper saw the coin packed away against the skirting of the room and lying as if glued to the wood.

"Oh, oh," cried the keeper, "here it is!"

"Thank heaven!" exclaimed the prince.

"My dear sir," said the keeper, "you forgot me?"

"Yes, certainly," was the reply. "I was never more frightened, I assure you. I never realized until now how circumstantial evidence might have a man for a crime of which he is perfectly innocent. Stand a little away from me, please, and I will show you why I was so anxious to be gone. I say that coin in your hand is the only one in existence."

The prince put his hand in his pocket and drew out its fellow.

"I came into possession of this a year ago. Ever since I have had a burning desire to see the British museum. But had I been searched, what would you have thought of my acquisition, that there were two such coins and that I had come to compare mine with yours? Would you have believed me?"

"I am bound to say, sir, that in the circumstances I should not."

"What would you have done?"

"Of course, and I could not but have blamed you. Good evening, I have missed my engagement, but I am no longer afraid to look you in the face."

A HOUSE WITH A HISTORY.

The house No. 7 on the Promenade des Anglais at Nice has been bought by a Miss Gough, a wealthy American lady, who intends shortly to convert the first floor of her new dwelling into a huge hall, where she has promised to give some remarkable fete. It remains to be seen if she will ever have the honor of receiving within her walls the man who, quite unwittingly, killed her predecessor in that house.

It was inhabited for years by the Comtesse Coloredo, wife of the ambassador of Rome, a proud lady, who had there. She was a fanatic about etiquette, and one evening at the Palais Borghese, in Rome, she saw a lady of rank who had taken by mistake the seat reserved for Mme. l'Embaissadeuse. So, calmly, and without turning a hair, she walked straight to her fauteuil, and, falling on the lap of the offender, proceeded to calmly arrange the folds of her dress.

She was in the habit, while proceeding calmly to her seat, of saying to the lady who had taken her place, "I am afraid I must have changed very much since last I saw you," answered the gentleman, with a shade of irritation in his voice. "You do not know, my dear madame."

The comtesse stared at the person who had taken her place, and said, "Pray, who are you, sir?"

"I'm afraid I must have changed very much since last I saw you," answered the gentleman, with a shade of irritation in his voice. "You do not know, my dear madame."

"No; nor do I wish to know you, madame," retorted the lady, who got up and walked away majestically.

The eye of the gentleman twinkled maliciously. "Ah," he said, "I've been already introduced to you, my dear madame. But allow me to repeat the formality. I am the Prince of Wales."

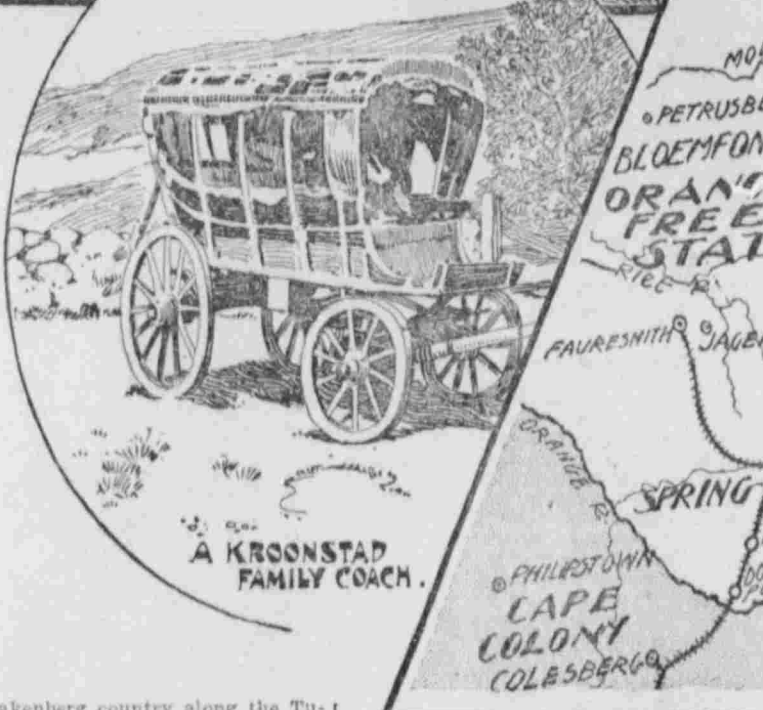
A silky bundle fell backward in the arms of the scared footman. And six weeks later she died in the house No. 7, on the Promenade des Anglais, having, they say, never recovered from the shock.

WELL PAID!

While the kaiser was sitting to a well known painter for his portrait recently, he remarked that he was terribly bored, and had, in fact, to steal the few minutes he could spare for the sitting.

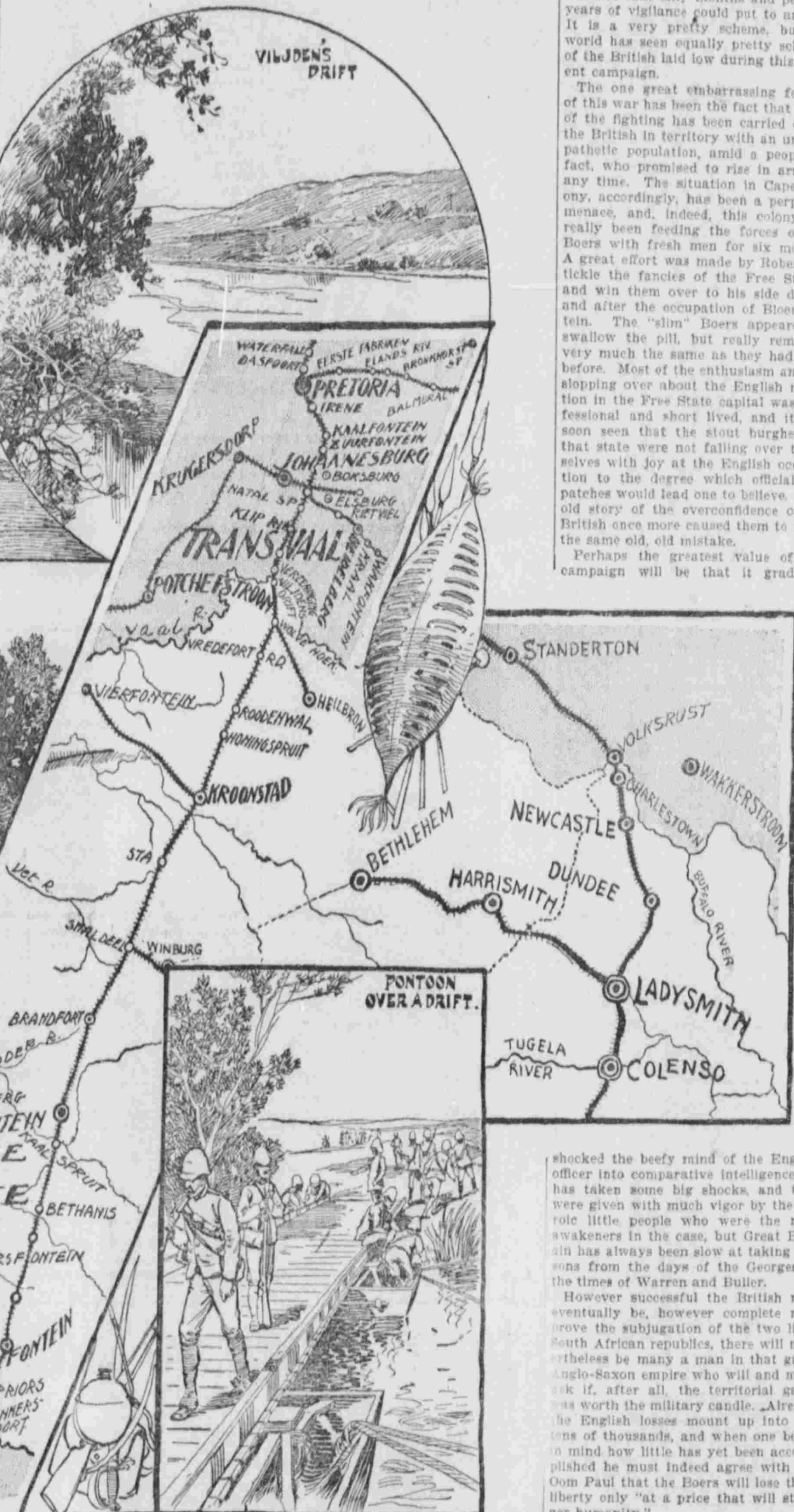
"Your majesty works too hard," I am the artist. "Ah, well, you know, I am paid for it," replied Kaiser Wilhelm with a laugh.

FARM NEAR ROODENWAL.



A KROONSTAD FAMILY COACH.

FARMHOUSE NEAR SMALDEEL.



KROONSTAD FROM THE RIVER.



here, with 90 guns. This was later seen to be somewhat of an exaggeration, for it would have left only 15,000 of the 50,000 Boers said to be under arms to carry on the campaign over the rest of the field of action. But all along it has been very hard to estimate the Boer strength. It is not known just what number of active foreign supporters the German and French steamers have been landing at Delagoa Bay. They are said to be considerable in number, but they cannot be so numerous as to

fresh beef he kills a few of the herd that has been driven along with him for the purpose. The British army officials, for instance, have been buying thousands of tons of American hay for their cavalry. This has all had to be sent up to the front. Then Tommy has to have his innkeeper and his cook and his servants and their champagne. So much meat per day, so many ounces of vegetables per day, so much coffee and so much sugar and bread per day—that

English, and therein lies their salvation. For example, not long ago nearly all Lord Roberts' men at Bloemfontein had to be supplied with new boots. This seems a trivial matter, but it is no easy thing to boot thousands of men on a few days' or even a few weeks' notice. The severest critic of the war office at London, however, cannot but admire the promptness with which the different contingencies have been met. Yet they were all mostly things which ought to have been anticipated long before, and, indeed, if such had been the case, might have altered the situation of affairs in South Africa to some very considerable degree at the present time. But the English officer, brave as he has proved himself, is more beefy than brainy. No amount of bulldog courage can compensate for the lack of that tactical skill which is the first consideration of the good campaigner.

As winter comes on the British will have an advantage in one respect, and that is the fact that as time goes on the grass on the veldt will gradually dry up and force the Boer to seek provender elsewhere. The great standby of the burghers in such cases is cat hay, and for some time they have been buying up this sort of provender in Johannesburg and Pretoria.

The English supplies, of course, were labored up the railway from Cape Town mostly and are being rolled onward as necessity demands. It seems to have been no extravagant statement that the 107 miles of railway between Bloemfontein and Norval's Pont required 15,000 men to insure it against interruption

shocked the beefy mind of the English officer into comparative intelligence. It has taken some big shocks, and they were given with much vigor by the heroic little people who were the rude awakeners in the case, but Great Britain has always been slow at taking lessons from the days of the Georges to the times of Warren and Buller.

However successful the British may eventually be, however complete may prove the subjugation of the two little South African republics, there will nevertheless be many a man in that great Anglo-Saxon empire who will and must ask if, after all, the territorial game was worth the military candle. Already the English losses mount up into the tens of thousands, and when one bears in mind how little has yet been accomplished he must indeed agree with old Oom Paul that the Boers will lose their liberty only "at a price that will stagger humanity."

## CHANNING A. BARTOW.

### SAVED BY AN ELEPHANT.

Battles have been saved by many curious circumstances, and there is a pretty story in Indian history of how an elephant was once instrumental in slaying off defeat. The animal was a standard bearer and carried on his back

sign, the rallying point of the royal army. The elephant, however, was a little shy of the point of the Poona host. Hardly had the fight commenced than his mahout, just after giving him the word to halt, received a fatal wound and fell among the slain and wounded. The elephant stood still and refused to move either backward or forward a single inch, and round him the fight grew hotter and fiercer. The Maharrattas were being beaten, but so long as they saw the standard flying they refused to believe it and rallied round the colors again and again. The Maharrattas were victorious, and when they returned found it impossible to move the standard bearer either by bribes or threats, and there he stood, as he had been told by his master, for three days and nights. Only when the mahout's little son was brought to the scene would the animal move.