



THE
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A Holiday among the New Zealand Glaciers.

AS the Southern Alps of New Zealand are to many of the readers of the TORCH-BEARER practically unknown country, perhaps a short account of the place and the sights to be seen and of the feats to be performed there may be of interest.

In the first place the necessary kit is not elaborate, knicker-bockers of some stout material, stockings not two thick, but not thin, flannel shirts and sweater, and very strong boots with plenty of square wrought-iron hob-nails. Knicker-bockers are practically necessary as nearly everything that is worth seeing necessitates a long walk. And as you are

liable to the extremes of heat and cold, your elevation varying between 2,000 and 10,000 feet above sea level, flannel shirts are also nearly indispensable, the changes of temperature too account for the sweater. As to the boots, the guide in a season of 3 months wears out $2\frac{1}{2}$ pairs of boots, so they must be strong, and as a slip will often mean danger, not only to yourself but to the others of the party, they must be well nailed with nails that can be relied on, 15 or 20 nails should be distributed over the sole and heel of each boot, so that one at least will always have a hold on the rock or ice on which one is stepping.

The special Alpine equipment such as ice axes, blue glasses, ruck sack etc., can be hired at the Hermitage Accommodation House at the foot of Mt. Cook. The only exception is a mask, which however is not necessary, if one is willing to suffer the pains of a burnt nose and face, caused by the glare from the snow and ice, and to forego a shave while in this state.

The place is generally reached by train from Christchurch to Fairlie one day, then on the next, going by coach to Pukaki via Tekapo and arriving at the Hermitage in time for dinner on the third day. This drive is by no means the least interesting part of the trip, as apart from the views, of which the approach to Lakes Tekapo and Pukaki and the first glimpses of the snow clad peaks need special mention, one can trace the various stages of land formation by glacial action. The huge glacier beds of the Mackenzie plains, with the old lateral moraines, now smoothly covered with grass, cut up here and there by later glaciers, which have in turn left their moraines to show their course, then the smaller beds which the two lakes now occupy, with the moraines more clearly marked and not so much cut up by the tributary glaciers, and finally the actual glaciers grinding out their beds, with their rivers washing the silt so formed down to the lower parts of their former beds, there in time to form new lands.

This last part of the drive is as beautiful as it is interesting as peak after peak comes into view (for you are facing them nearly the whole day), especially if you are fortunate enough to have some one to name the peaks and other points of interest, which are continually altering their appearance as your point of view

changes. You may, too, be fortunate enough to see some of the birds of that region, such as the Pukaki duck. The only animals however to be found are imported; sheep, rabbits, and stoats.

On the completion of the journey, one scarcely knows what to do. There is anything from the ordinary trips, which nearly any lady can undertake without fear of anything worse than being healthily tired, to the ascent of Mt. Sefton which has been only ascended once, and that by Zurbriggen, the famous Swiss guide, who describes it as the hardest peak he has ever climbed. Without aspiring to such deeds as this, one has plenty of new and interesting work, in which one can experience all the charms of mountaineering. The Ball pass, which any man of ordinary habits can do with ease, necessitates the use of the rope, and gives one a glorious gissade down the other side. The Hockstetter Dome is the novices' peak and in our case, owing to the extreme cold, called for the cutting of steps, what is ordinarily a snow slope being frozen into an ice cliff. Both of these mean a night or two at one of the two huts the government has built on the Tasman glacier. To the latter ladies often ride, and from there make a short trip to the clear ice of the Tasman glacier, whence they get views of the Main and Cook Ranges, which present a wonderful panorama of snow clad peaks, and the Hockstetter Ice Fall, a wonderful view, and gives one some idea of the extent of the glacier. This wonderful glacier is 18 miles long with a maximum width of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the average being $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles; it has an average height of 250 feet at the terminal face, and for several miles is covered with a mass of loose rocks

and stones, known as a surface moraine; it is thus quite as large as, if not larger than any of the Swiss glaciers.

The above mentioned huts are divided into two rooms with four bunks in each, and as there is a plentiful supply of rugs, sleeping bags and tinned food, they serve both as resting places and as starting places for expeditions that require more than one day. Some of the trips from these huts may be worth mentioning. From the Lower or Ball hut, so called because it is at the foot of the Ball glacier, one can go, as has been mentioned, over the Ball pass at the head of the glacier and down to the Hooker glacier and so by a track back to The Hermitage. On this trip one gets what is perhaps the best view of Mt. Cook which like nearly all big mountains is disappointing when seen from the foot but grows more impressive as one gets higher. Or you can go to the Great Plateau, a huge snow-field, and camping there in sleeping bags make some attempt on one of the many adjoining peaks, or one can go across to the Murchison glacier and perhaps attempt some of the peaks there. From the Upper or Malte Brum huts, sometimes called Brodrick's hut, one can ascend the Lendenfelt Saddle and Hookstetter Dome, or Mt. Darwin or any of the peaks across the glacier, Mt. Green and the Minarets being the most striking. Most if not all have been climbed, so can be done again, though only a few can be attempted by any but experienced mountaineers. Starting from The Hermitage again, a trip up the Hooker or Mueller glaciers is well worth the journey, and a climb up the Sealy Range, say to the trigonometrical station on Mt. Olivier, mostly rock

work, and one that can be done without a guide, gives one a splendid view of the upper parts of the Mueller and the mountains surrounding the glacier, from Mt. Sefton on the right to Mt. Sealy on the left, while right away on the right there can be seen the Hooker glacier and Mt. Cook, a wonderful expanse of ice-clad mountains. From here, too, one gets a splendid view of Avalanche Cliff on Mt. Sefton, whence avalanches are continually falling from a wall of ice and snow 350 feet thick. A good view of this can be obtained also from below, from Kea Point, to which there is a well made track, practically on level ground. Fitzgerald's pass, too, is worth climbing for the view down the Copland River, if it is not clouded in fog, and even then there is plenty of excitement in the climb which affords many cases of the what Badminton Library would describe as "pretty pieces of rock work." For those who are unable or disinclined to climb, besides the trip to Kea Point, there are trips to be made to Governor's Bush, and the creek alongside, to the terminal face of the Hooker or Mueller, and to many other spots, too, which entail nothing more than an uphill walk.

As to accommodation, The Hermitage is under government control, and considering the distance from the railway, the charge of 10/- a day is not excessive and one is made very comfortable. Guide's fees are of course a consideration but these are very moderate, as can be ascertained from the official books. As to the guide himself, in expeditions of this kind so much depends on him, that the government has been fortunate in securing the services of Clark, whom

it would be hard to equal either on the march or in camp, and who is in every way as good a mate as one could wish to find.

In conclusion a trip to Mt. Cook Hermitage, whether for three days or three months, will repay any trouble one may take in reaching the place, and

occupation will never be lacking either to the climber or to the loiterer, and in that climate with the invigorating mountain air, there are few who would not become a climber and with time and experience aspire to the harder and higher peaks so many of which have seldom been climbed.

The Boat Club.

AFTER leaving home waters for the Parramatta the crew were fortunate in securing excellent weather with the exception of Saturday and Monday, the 14th and 16th of April, when the Westerly was too violent to be pleasant.

The crew tackled their first course on Thursday, 19th April, paddling over the slack water in 9 min. 12 secs. On the following Saturday they rowed over against the tide in 8 min. 57 secs. The following Monday they crawled over in 9 min., a performance which they do not wish remembered, especially as they reduced this "record" on the following Wednesday by 38 sec., when they showed most excellent form all over the course.

A more perfect day for the regatta could not have dawned than Saturday, April 28th. The only crumpled rose-leaf was the non-appearance of St. Ignatius, who were prevented from competing by the illness of their stroke.

The story of the race is soon told. Our crew got away at about 38 and at Gladesville had a good three lengths lead. This they continued to hold, or even to increase, though the rate of striking was reduced to something like 28.

They kept their form excellently right over the course and passed the judge with a lead of four lengths in 8 min. 20 secs. The tide was almost slack at the time.

It is only fair to say that our opponents were much troubled with illness on the morning of the race.

Names and weights were as follows:—
Sydney Church of England Grammar School.—J. F. Reid 11 st. 8 lb. (bow), A. R. Lomax 11 st. 5 lb., R. S. Reid 11 st. 6 lb., L. W. Carey 10 st. 5 lb. (stroke), H. S. Bland 5 st. 13 lb. (cox)..... 1
Sydney Grammar School.—J. H. M'Laughlin 10 st. 7 lb. (bow), F. Heron 11 st. 6 lb., G. U. Garvan 11 st. 11 lb., D. C. Close 10 st. 10 lb. (stroke), O. Dibbs 5 st. 1 lb. (cox) 2

At a Boat Club Committee Meeting held in the bush near Artarmon during a training walk the day before the race, Fisher was awarded his "Eadith" colours. As fifth man he was most useful to the crew.

CHARACTERS OF THE CREW.

J. F. REID (bow).—Has good power but is not quite solid enough as yet. Inclined to hang out of the boat at the finish. Uses his legs fairly well.

A. R. LOMAX (2)—Rows hard and uses his legs well. Inclined to let his but-ton come away at times, and to recover without straightening the arms enough.

R. S. REID (3)—Disappointing in the earlier stages of practice, and apparently unable to use all his weight. Improved immensely and learnt to

use his legs really well.

L. W. CAREY (stroke).—Somewhat inclined to rush his slide. Had rather a difficult task with three much heavier men behind him but acquitted himself well. Erred, if anything, on the side of doing too much work.

H. S. BLAND (cox).—As usual, excellent.

The Camp.

CAMP was held as usual at Cash-man's Hotel, Gladesville and did not differ much from its predecessors. We were not quite so numerous a party as on other occasions, but were reinforced by numerous visitors.

Mrs. Robson was up frequently, as also was Mr. Burnside and Mr. Ramsay and we also had the pleasure of visits from Mr. Turnbull, Mr. Davies, and Simpson and Jaques. A Cavalry patrol consisting of Giblin, Hobson, and Kater surprised us on Saturday 14th, when bivouacking for the night. We turned out in strength and captured them, but only retained Kater, the two others being allowed to depart on parole.

The usual boating routine took place, particulars of which will be found in another column. Our evenings—we quote from an official report—were spent in “innocent amusements.” These consisted chiefly of the “Messenger Boy” game, and euchre, of a very cut-throat order. And we must not forget the Gladesville flower show.

We wish to take this opportunity of again thanking the Hospital authorities for their continued kindness to us.

We regret to be unable to recommend the neighbourhood of Gladesville as a fishing resort, catfish are numerous, but we think we caught the only flat-head.

International Cricket.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH. BRITISH V. BOER.

IT was very early in the season, but various circumstances had conspired to bring the rival forces into the field much earlier than had been anticipated. As a matter of fact the arrangements were unduly hurried on by the Boers who were extremely anxious

to meet their opponents before they had time to get into regular practice. The British, who had not the faintest idea that the Boers had been practising assiduously for a very long time, were scattered about visiting their friends and relations, when notices of the fixture were sent

round, but of course the challenge could not be declined.

It was scarcely a sportsmanlike action on the part of the Boers, but their team was controlled by a number of irresponsible members like Kruger and Steyn, who over-ruled the better judgment of sportsmen of the Joubert type. The eventful day arrived and most of the Britishers were still absent, for some of them had a considerable distance to travel, still, with characteristic pluck such as were present hurried into their *togs* and took the field, when to their surprise they found the opposing batsmen already at the wickets, although the umpires had not yet appeared. G. Penn-Symons immediately opened from the Northern end with his lightning deliveries, and with his first ball scattered the stumps of Dundee, but was unfortunately incapacitated. G. White finished the over for him and sent the Elandslaagte champion's wicket flying all over the place. This was a brilliant start, the loss of Elandslaagte being keenly felt by the Boers.

Buller, who took the ball at the other end, tried in vain to dislodge his opponents who had the advantage of the wicket all in favour of the batsmen. He kept pegging away at R. Tugela and got past him several times, but failed to get through his defence; although the batsman was continually in trouble, and playing a strictly defensive game. Once he almost succeeded, Thorney Croft who was right out in the long-field actually got Spion Kop into his hands but one of those flies that bothered Ranji so much got into his eye, and, failing to hold it, he ran in the wrong direction. The result of this egregious blunder was at

once apparent, for the Boers gaining confidence began to take more liberties with their opponents and attracted a large number of *barrackers* to their side.

Meanwhile the absent members of the Britishers arrived and with them their Captain well known in the cricketing circles as "Bobs," a bowler of acknowledged skill and experience. He possesses remarkable powers of observation, sound judgment, and infinite resource, and is a wonderful fellow for pulling a game out of the fire.

It struck him at once that on such a wicket it was waste of time to go on bowling straight stuff, and with his usual methods of going over the garden wall when the gate is not available, he set to work *Giffenlike* with his *French* theory, now coming in from the off and now from the leg side, and always from the off when he was expected from the leg, and vice versa.

He fairly demoralised the unhappy Krugerites who had a sort of notion that he was not playing fairly, for they had never heard of "*googlers* and *whirlies* and *bobbie-lazzlers*" before, and their innings ended in a total collapse.

The Britishers now occupied the crease and it was evident that they intended to stay there; rarely, if ever, has there been seen such a magnificent exhibition of rapid scoring, such a number of perfectly timed strokes, such defence, Ladysmith and Kimberley's display of steady patient batting will long be remembered, neither of them seemed anxious to score fast, but occasionally they opened out and knocked the bowling out of the ground, Kimberley having a great penchant for *Rhodes*; they both did yeoman service in breaking the bowling and the splendid ovation

they received on retiring was thoroughly deserved.

Mafeking also offered a most stubborn resistance, defying the determined attacks and the *underhand* bowling of the Boers till they grew weary and sick of trying to get him out.

Bobs' innings was a marvellous performance, he played the bowling with ease, driving hard all the time; in fact with one of his powerful strokes he put the wily crack Cronje hors-de-combat. Shortly afterwards they knocked off for refreshments, the Britishers taking theirs at Bloemfontein where fresh water was plentifully supplied.

On resuming, the Boers starting to bowl before the batsman was quite ready—there was no umpire—secured a wicket through the agency of Waterval, and Wepener by an uppish stroke was nearly disposed of.

De Vet, the energetic outfield, made a dashing attempt but failed to reach it. It was a hot chance and lucky escape.

The Australian members of the team

maintained their well-known reputation and scored heavily, their batting being generally confident, forcible and effective; while their running between the wickets was a revelation to cricketers.

However by this time the Krugerites were thoroughly demoralised and disorganised, some of the players actually arguing with each other and making offensive remarks of a personal character, while Steyn, the vice-captain, displayed the utmost want of tact and ignorance of the etiquette of the game, even forgetting himself so far as to flog several of them with his whip.

It is more than probable that the Association will take the matter up and that the result will be the disbanding of the Federal Boer C.C. and the formation of a new club to be called the South African Commonwealth C.C. open to all members of the Associated Clubs without distinction, and on payment of the same uniform entrance fee.

All cricketers will wish the movement every success.

Football.

THE season opened on May 2nd with a match against the University thirds, the only one of the season, as, now they have entered the Competition, their Saturdays are engaged. They brought over a very weak team and, our forwards displaying very promising form, we won easily by 36 to nil. The Old Boys' match also helped to encourage the team, as a fairly strong team of old boys was beaten by 13 to 8. Our forwards again played well and were well backed up outside the

scrum. Although our condition was not too good, we outlasted the Old Boys. On the following Wednesday, we played a scratch team consisting largely of members of the Aoma Club, but they had little combination or condition, and we again secured an easy victory. The match against the Nondescripts on Saturday 13th proved most exciting, as after a very even game in which Nondescripts showed better condition than usual, the School won by 9—8. Against Hawkesbury College second team we also did

well. They brought down a much weaker team than last year, their collaring being especially weak, and having filled up two places in the team from outside, we scored very heavily. Forsyth scored three tries and dropped two goals from the field, 17 points in all. The final score was not kept. The only other club match, that against the Royalist, was scratched on account of the weather. Scots College we shall not meet this term as they have been stopped from playing football. The account of the School matches will be found below.

The team on the whole is better than last year. The forwards, though light, work hard in the scrum and in the open, and are fairly fast. They have however shown a tendency to go to pieces as in the second half of the S.G.S. match, and the K.S. match: in the latter we were one short and Reid was not well, which may afford some excuse against such heavy forwards. The backs have shown a sound defence, collaring and kicking well, but in attack, though good individually, do not show much combination. Carey has displayed his usual soundness at full back. Of the forwards Reid and Way have consistently played hard and Lomax too has shown very good form, but is unlucky in getting hurt which keeps him behind the others. Taylor too, though not fast, does very good work in the loose and tight scrums, his saying being especially good. Adams i has perhaps improved the most and should shortly become a really good forward. Of the others Barton takes the ball well on the line out, but does not show much life and has not yet learnt the game. Sayer takes a pass and kicks well, but does not do much shoving in the scrum. The last place has been filled by Uther,

Adams ii and Meredith, the first who shoves hard and tackles well on the line out but is too slow, has played most regularly, neither of the other two know much about the game. Of the backs, Kater plays well on the attack getting the ball away clean, and considering his light weight saves excellently. Fisher and Hickson kick and collar well, the latter shows excellent judgment in running, and is improving in pace, while Fisher is very fast and is feeding his $\frac{3}{4}$ better, but wants to keep a better lookout for openings and not to get mixed up in the scrum. Forsyth at centre, though somewhat slow, shows a good deal of resource and when he learns when and how to pass will strengthen the team. Terry though small and light tackles and finds touch well, but is apt to get out of his place. Fenwick and Hutchinson ii have shared the other wing. The latter is a strong tackler and when he gets going is hard to stop. Fenwick shows good promise, taking the ball well and running hard and is improving in kicking. He brings off some very fine tackles and with practice will do well. Carey, again, is a good tackler, saves well and is finding touch with more certainty.

Our seconds are very small and have only played one match, that against S.G.S. 3rd, when they were beaten badly. The match v. the Lower School 2nd was scratched on account of wet weather.

The Juniors have played a draw with N.C. Juniors and by good combination beat a rather weak team of S.G.S. Juniors. They were to have played a return match, but owing to the state of the weather, the match was postponed.

V. S.G.S.—Played on the N. Shore Reserve, Wednesday, May 16th. S.G.S. kick off was returned into touch at 25 by Forsyth. Then Hickson stopped forward rush by picking up neatly and finding touch at half way. In S.G.S. 25 Close intercepted Fisher's pass and carried ball to School's 25. From thence Fisher and Hickson, by good passing brought it back, and Close again intercepted Fisher's pass but was well tackled by Terry. Thence from half-way, forwards started a dribbling rush headed by Lomax and Adams, and brought ball to S.G.S. line where it remained for a while: then from a loose scrum Adams picked up passed to Way who got it away splendidly to Fisher and he to Forsyth who dashed for line and scored. The kick went wide (Sayers). From 25 kick, S.G.S. forced ball into School's 25 where Reid intercepted a pass and found touch at half-way, thence School forced it into S.G.S. 25 and from a scrum Kater got it away to Hickson who did a brilliant dash and scored. Half-time scores S.G.S. 3, School 6. On resuming play the kick-off was returned by Harris to half-way where Terry took it neatly and found touch at 25 line. Then S.G.S. carried ball to half-way but a brilliant piece of passing by Hickson, Fisher, Forsyth, and Sayers brought it back, then S.G.S. forced the ball back to our line where from a loose scrum the ball was picked up and try resulted. Score 6—6. Then in line out from knock on, S.G.S. picked up and ran in. The kick was converted 11—6. From this the School went to pieces and S.G.S. scored the other 8 points in quick time. School then rallied and with a good passing rush between Kater, Fisher, Hickson and Sayers, the ball was taken to S.G.S. 25 where it remained for last ten minutes, and whistle sounded no side with S.G.S. winners by 19 to 6. Mr. Pilkington refereed.

V. St. Ignatius—at Riverview, Saturday, May 19. School's kick off was forced. The College 25 kick off was returned into touch at 25 by Sayers. The play then became up and down the ground for 15 minutes, Way, Reid and Lomax being prominent amongst the forwards. The College with forward rush scored, 3 to nil. The School 25 kick was stopped, then from a scrum the School rallied and a dribble by Way, Reid and Lomax brought ball to College 25, but it was forced back. Another dribble followed, by the same three and Fisher, which brought ball under College goal where a free was awarded School, Hickson converting 3—3. Play then became up and down the field till half time when the scores remained

the same. In the second half play was chiefly amongst the forwards as in the first, but they failed to get the ball out and play was up and down the field: the College scored from a passing rush. 6—3. From this time the School rallied and kept ball in College 25 till a forward rush by College brought ball back to School 25, and they scored shortly afterwards. 9—3 against School. To end of time play was all over the field and the scores at no side remained unchanged. The backs played a good defending game, but never got the ball from the forwards. The ball would come to second rank and then go back again. Mr. Armstrong refereed.

V. T.K.S.—at T.K.S. Fisher won the toss and kicked off against a slight breeze, Terry returned and found touch at half way. From throw in forwards took ball to K.S. 25, but good rush by T.K.S. backs brought it to School 25. Here Kater relieved by finding touch half way. From scrum the ball was taken to K.S. line but they soon relieved, and gradually worked back to School line where they scored. Kick failed. Kick off was well returned by Body and from line out K.S. backs by good passing scored. Kick again failed. 6—0. A series of scrums took place in centre of ground where free was awarded K.S. Body punted high and their forwards started a fine rush which ended in their scoring again. 9—0. School rallied and kept things going till near half time when K.S. again scored. 12—0. Ryrie returned School kick off and following on took ball out at our 25. From the line out T.K.S. secured ball and passed out to their three-quarters and try resulted but kick failed. 15—0. From kick off T.K.S. started a beautiful rush and again scored. School forwards here went to pieces and King's secured tries in quick succession two only of which were converted. The whistle at length sounded no side with the score 43 to nil in the King's School favour. Mr. Ryan refereed.

V. Newington College.—School kicked off and the ball was returned by Brown at half way. From scrum Kater secured and passed to Fisher who after a good run passed to Fenwick who made a good dash down the line. Some scrambling and up and down play followed until Brown eventually secured to be well tackled by Fenwick. From a scrum N.C. forwards carried ball to School line where they nearly scored but School saved by Carey forcing. The drop off rolled out of touch at half way: Forsyth found the line in their 25 by a lucky kick. Newington forced and Way stopped kick off and scrum followed. Bad passing by

School gave N.C. a chance but Way intercepted and got in a good kick. A good passing rush by N.C. forwards worked the ball to our 25 where a free was awarded to School but kick failed to find touch and Newington pressed hard with forward rush which resulted in their scoring. 3—nil. From the kick out, good forward play followed and School carried ball to N.C. 25, where free brought it back to half way. From a throw in Millican nearly scored through not being marked, and from a scrum following MacKay nearly got over the line. Hickson relieved, however, and after some good passing on the part of Newington backs, McVicar took a shot at goal without result. From the kick out the forwards followed on well and took the ball to Newington line where Lomax nearly scored. Free against Newington gave Sayers a place at goal but the ball went wide. After the kick out some loose play followed and Reid picked up and passed to Fenwick who took the ball to half way. Newington were penalised for off side and ball went out of their 25. Shortly after whistle sounded half time with Newington leading by 3 to nil. On resuming Forsyth returned the kick off to half way and from here N.C. forwards helped by a lucky speculator gradually worked the ball to our line. The School forwards were now working hard but were not together. Carey only just managed to force. Newington missing a pass were shortly after penalised for off side and we took a scrum at half way. Good kicking by N.C. however brought the ball back and from a scrum following, Ireland secured after a good

passing rush, and scored. Millican added the extra points 8—nil. From a scrum MacKay got the ball and took it to Carey who brought his man and Way got away with a nice dribble but was not backed up. Then Carey kicked across the ground where Ireland coming across picked up and scored. The kick failed. 11—nil. Some good work by forwards, Lomax being prominent, and good kicking by Carey and Fisher brought the ball to half way. N.C. worked the ball back quickly to our 25 where Fenwick returned to Hawkins at centre who in turn kicked out at our 25. From line out Brown secured and centred, and through our forwards not coming round quickly Hawkins scored. Brown converted 16—nil. The kick off was scrummed for off side and Millican dropped at goal but missed. Lomax relieved but was not backed up. Newington worked to our line where Millican secured and made a dash but was held up by Fisher. From a scrum near our line MacKay passed to Millican who scored on blind side, and himself kicked a goal. 21—nil. Forwards followed up the kick off and carried the ball to N.C. 25. After some scrambling play good kicking brought the ball back to our line and we forced. A grand passing rush from half way ended in Shannon scoring. N.C. still pressed but our defence was good, Forsyth being prominent in kicking and Hickson in tackling. A good dash by Kater and a free kick relieved. The whistle then sounded no side leaving Newington College winners by 26 to nil. Mr. Armstrong refereed.

Old Boys' Union.

Notice of any change of address should be at once sent to the Hon. Secretaries of the Old Boys' Union, S.C.E.G.S.

Present members of the School are reminded of the following rule:—Boys in their last term at School may join the Union, but not be members till they have left.

The following have joined the Union since the last issue:—

Ivo Clarke, Cavendish Street, Stanmore.

J. B. St. Vincent-Welch, Standish, Greenwich.

S. H. O. Holtermann, Victoria Avenue, Chatswood.

N. G. Pattison "Tunally," River Bank, Rockhampton.

The following changes of address have been notified:—

A. G. Gunning, Karlsruhe, Lavender Bay.

M. Dawson, 37 Assington Street, Bayswater, London W.

G. A. More, "Altona," Berry Street, N. Sydney.

F. L. M. Merewether, "Castlefields," Edgecliffe Road, Woollahra.

L. F. Uther, "Bonville," Coff's Harbour.

The Annual Re-Union took place on Saturday, May 5th. In the afternoon the usual Football Match took place against the School team. The Union was represented by S. H. O. Holtermann (capt.), J. Lyne, F. C. B. Bland, C. W. Rundle, E. D. Kater, H. V. Jaques, A. H. Moseley, H. W. Kendall, R. Barton, J. G. Edie, H. J. Gould, W. G. B. Boydell, H. L. Lomax, E. A. Bice, A. D. Blaxland. After a very exciting game the result was a victory for the School by 13 points to 8; a detailed report of the match will be found in another column. Afternoon tea was provided in the School Hall by Mrs. Robson, and a good number of ladies, old boys, and friends of the school were present.

In the evening the Annual Dinner took place at the A.B.C. Café at which the following were present:—The Head-Master (in the chair), F. C. Adams, J. N. F. Armstrong, L. A. Baker, R. G. Burnside, W. G. B. Boydell, Rus. Barton, F. C. B. Bland, G. R. C. Clarke, M. L. Clarke, G. H. Devonshire, Rev. D. Davies, W. K. Dawson, N. Y. Deane, J. G. Edie, D. P. Evans-Jones, J. F. Fitzhardinge, N. E. Giblin, H. J. Gould, A. G. Gunning, E. R. Holme, H. P. Harriott, A. D. Hall, O. E. Hopkins, E. Ireland, H. Ireland, H. V. Jaques, D. T. Kilgour, H. W. Kendall, E. D. Kater, J. Lyne, C. H. Linton, G. Milbourne-Marsh, A. H. Moseley, M. C. Moseley, A. C. Pilkington, J. W. Purves, D. F. Roberts, G. W. Rundle, C. W. Rundle, A. J. Senior, F. G. Simpson, S. Simpson, A. Sulman, N.

Trevor-Jones, A. B. S. White, H. N. Wilkinson, W. H. Wilkinson, G. R. Wilson, A. H. Yarnold.

The toasts were:—"The Queen" proposed by the President; "The School" proposed by E. R. Holme, and responded to by J. N. F. Armstrong, J. F. Fitzhardinge and A. B. S. White; "Absent Friends" proposed by H. W. Kendall, "The President" proposed by F. G. Simpson and responded to by Mr. Robson. An adjournment was now made to the Concert Hall, and the Annual Meeting took place.

The Annual Report which was as follows, was read by the Hon. Secretary, G. R. C. Clarke.

To the Members of the S.C.E.G.S. Old Boys' Union.

Gentlemen,—

In presenting the Sixth Annual Report, your Committee have again to congratulate the Union on the steady increase of members during the year. At the same time your Committee urge members to be more regular in sending their subscriptions so as to increase the usefulness of the Union.

The Annual Cricket Match against the School resulted in a win for the Union by 169 to 156 runs. The Old Boys' Race at the School Sports resulted in a dead heat between C. E. Hale, and H. J. Gould, the former winning the run off by a few inches. The Football Match after a very interesting game was won by the School, by 13 points to 8.

During the year a new departure was made in holding an "open night" in the form of a Smoke Concert at the School. This proved so highly successful that your Committee hope to see it made into an annual affair. They are particularly in-

debted to Mr. Claude Lepastrier, to lady friends and others for contributing to the success of the evening.

The "Sergeant's Purse" which amounted to £20 2s. 6d. was presented during the course of the smoke concert. Your Committee are glad that he has rejoined the School as Carpentry Instructor, and School Clerk.

The Union is well represented in South Africa, and the deeds of members as recorded by the war correspondents cannot but resound to the honour of their old School. Your Committee wish all its members a safe and speedy return covered with honour.

During the year J. F. Fitzhardinge has been admitted as Solicitor; and E. O. Pockley has been appointed House Surgeon at the Prince Alfred Hospital. Your Committee heartily congratulate them as being the first old boys to enter on their respective professions. They also congratulate A. J. Hopkins and G. R. C. Clarke on their success in Inter-colonial cricket, and C. E. Hale and G. A. More on obtaining their seats in the Inter-colonial Eight.

Detailed reports of the doings of Old Boys have appeared in the Old Boys' Union Article in the TORCH-BEARER, and members are urged to send items of interest and personal notes so as to make these articles as complete and interesting as possible.

Your Committee warmly congratulate the School in regaining the title of "Head of the River."

Your Committee are indebted to the Old Boys' Unions of the The King's School and St. Joseph's College for complimentary tickets for various social events during the year.

In resigning their trust into your hands your Committee would earnestly urge upon you the usefulness of the Union and claim that, so far, it has fully realised all that could be expected of it.

We have the honour to be,

Yours faithfully,

G. R. C. CLARKE, } Hon. Secs.
D. DAVIES, }

The Balance Sheet was as follows:
The Hon. Treasurer in account with the S.C.E.G.S. Old Boys' Union for the year ending May 4th, 1900—

BALANCE SHEET 1899—1900.

	£	s.	d.
Balance as per last statement	*9	13	4
40 Subscriptions at 5/-	..	10	0 0
		<hr/>	
		19	13 4

(Does not include £3 5s. voted for Trial Fours not yet rowed.)

	£	s.	d.
Printing ... ..	..	1	18 6
Subscriptions ... ..	..	2	5 6
Stamps ... ..	..	2	1 3
Prize for A. Sports ... ..	..	1	10 0
Annual Smoke Concert ... ..	..	4	12 5
(Including wedding present to Miss Jago.)			
Balance ... ..	..	7	5 8
		<hr/>	
		19	13 4

BENEVOLENT FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Balance as per last Statement	9	16	4
Profit on Dinner, 1899. ....	..	8	0
		<hr/>	
		10	4 4

E. & O. E. D. DAVIES, Hon. Treas.
Audited and found correct.

G. R. C. CLARKE.

5th May, 1900.

The Report and Balance Sheet having been passed and adopted, the election of

officers for the year 1900-1 took place with the following result: President, The Headmaster (ex-officio); Vice Presidents, J. F. Fitzhardinge, Dr. E. O. Pockley; Hon. Treasurer, Rev. D. Davies, Hon. Secretary, G. R. C. Clarke; Committee, R. Barton, N. Y. Deane, E. R. Holme, H. W. Kendall, G. A. More, C. W. Rundle, N. Trevor-Jones, F. G. Simpson, A. B. S. White.

The following motion after a great deal of discussion was unanimously carried: (a) That in the opinion of the Old Boys' Union lists should be placed in the School Hall of the Heads of the School, and of the Captains of the various games, and of Old Boys who have gone to the front to South Africa. (b) That the Committee communicate with the Headmaster, with the object of giving effect to the foregoing resolution.

A very successful smoke concert now took place at which the following took part, L. A. Baker, J. Lyne, E. R. Holme, A. H. Moseley, Mr. More, E. Ireland, R. G. Burnside, S. N. Stevens. Mr. More who was introduced by S. N. Stevens in addition to a vocal item and a recitation gave in dumb show a very clever representation of "Eating Soup at a Restaurant," and "A Bachelor Sewing on a Button." Mr. McClure who had promised to be present had mistaken the date.

An opportunity was now taken to give a most enthusiastic send-off to E. D. Kater who was about to start for the Cape to join the Australian Horse at the front.

"The Absent-minded Beggar" was sung by A. H. Moseley, and a collection made in aid of the Patriotic Fund. It was decided to keep the list open to the end

of the month so as to allow members who were not present an opportunity of subscribing. The evening was brought to a close with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem. Subscriptions towards the Patriotic Fund have been received since the Meeting from A. D. Campbell, W. B. Clarke, A. J. M. Simpson, N. Y. Deane, making a total up to date of £4 19s. 6d.

G. A. More, and C. E. Hale rowed in the recent Intercolonial Eight Oar Race at Brisbane; and H. J. Gould stroked and H. W. Kendall rowed in the winning crew in the Inter-University Eight-oared contest.

A. B. S. White and G. A. More are playing for the University in the Electoral Football Competition.

Dr. E. O. Pockley and G. R. C. Clarke are playing tennis for the University Team, and J. Lyne and A. J. Hopkins lacrosse for the North Sydney team.

P. Potts has returned invalided from the front. He is now in Sydney and is looking not much the worse for his varied experiences.

E. D. Kater, who has joined the Australian Horse, left for the front by the s.s. "Warrigal" on May 24th.

All members will be sorry to hear that H. W. H. Chadwick was wounded at Wepener, and it is hoped that news will soon come of his complete recovery. Chadwick had joined the Cape Mounted Rifles some time before the outbreak of the war.

F. A. A. Russell, M.A., is delivering a course of four lectures to the Banking Institute in Sydney.

Appended to this article will be found further extracts from letters from Old Boys' at the front. One, of particular

interest, is from J. Mair who was in Kimberley during the whole of the siege. Mair was on his way to Bulawayo to take up a post under the British South African Company and had gone as far as Vryburg when the armoured train which was trying to make its way to Mafeking was attacked by the Boers at Kraipan about half way from Vryburg to Mafeking, and wrecked. He consequently returned to Kimberley and next day they were attacked by the Boers and the Town was declared to be in a state of siege. Mair volunteered for the Kimberley Light Horse which was then being raised, but as they did not take any man exceeding 12 stone, while he was about 15 stone, they were forced to reject him and he was taken on as a maxim expert with the Cape Mounted Police, a semi-military corps.

All Old Boys will be sorry to find that Mair and Roberts (Lieut. C. V. F. Palmer) were invalided to Cape Town as the result of an attack of enteric fever, but we are glad to be able to state that both are now on a fair way to complete recovery.

The *Southern Mail* (Bowral) of April 14th contains an account of a meeting held at Bowral to welcome the Rev. A. W. Parton to the Bowral circuit of the Primitive Methodist Connection. We notice that his address on the occasion "created a most favourable impression and portends much success to the reverend gentleman while on this circuit."

The Hon. Treasurer begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following subscriptions for year ending May, 1901:— T. S. L. Armstrong, E. D. Kater, H. E. Whitfeld, F. L. M. Merewether, J. F. Fitzhardinge, J. B. Yeomans, F. G. M. Simpson, A. B. S. White, H. L. Lomax, G.

Milbourne-Marsh, D. Davies, H. P. Harriott, N. Y. Deane, O. E. Friend, C. W. Rundle (2), A. D. Campbell, A. J. M. Simpson (2), A. D. Blaxland, N. Y. Deane, N. G. Pattison, J. W. Gibson, B. H. O. St. John, A. Blake.

In the event of any mistake in the above list, kindly write to the Hon. Treasurer.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS OF OLD BOYS AT THE FRONT.

(From Lieut. C. W. F. P. Roberts' Letter).

Kimberley Club, Feb. 18th.

You see by the above address that we are once more in civilization. It is the one thing we wanted more than anything else to be in one of the relief columns and here we are after taking part in one of the most brilliant moves yet made. They all think it is a sort of second "Cabul to Kandahar." When the news came that we were to move we were at Kleinfontein, and we started on a forced march all night till we arrived by stages at Naauport. Here we entrained for Belmont stopping for two days at the Orange River where we had a most enjoyable swim. We left Belmont with a huge convoy of wagons, about 7 miles long full of salt beef and biscuits. There are over 7000 bullocks to draw and 5000 mules. We had to stop at a farm just in the Free States and go on next morning to Ramsdam where the main column was. We left the same day and arrived at Reit River. On the following day we advanced again and meeting with very little opposition we came to the Boer camp at the Modder River and took them quite by surprise and got every thing they had, wagons, bullocks, clothing, stores, even

their bread which was baking in an oven there. We also took 50 prisoners and ammunition. We stopped there two days to allow the infantry to catch us up and then on again after a little opposition which we soon cleared away, we advanced for Kimberley where we arrived at about 6 p.m., and found the Boers had cleared. The people went mad over it, as they had been living down the mines and had only ten ounces of bread per day and some horseflesh to live on. I had the luck to be the first Australian of all the contingents to pass through the redoubts into Kimberley at the head of my own troop, and the people did cheer us when they saw we were Australians. We are all surprised to find the Town so little damaged, and we had no idea it was so large. It is quite as big as Bathurst. This club is almost as big as the Union and all the members are so nice to us.

Koidoc's Drift, February 26th.

We left Kimberley on Wednesday; 21st inst., to try to get old Cronje, whom we knew had gone towards Bloemfontein and here in a bend of the river we have him fairly cornered with about 5 or 6000 Boers. The place where our camp is is very pretty and it is surrounded by trees, the first we have seen since goodness knows when. Of course we have no tents or anything to cover us, and the last three days have rather spoiled the pleasure of camping out, as it has rained steadily all the time, so we got rather wet, and, as we could not get dry again, it was rather unpleasant, but, strange to say, not one of us is any the worse for the soaking. 'Old Bobs' has made a wonderful difference to our forces since he took over the command. We have now three columns advancing on the Free State and

things seem coming to a head. All the Boer prisoners I have spoken to, have at last come to the conclusion that it is a hopeless task they have undertaken, and all are hoping for the end of the war. We don't know where we are bound for, but it is either Bloemfontein or Mafeking.

We are all on half rations, both horse and man, and the poor horses are looking fearfully poor and we often feel pretty hungry ourselves. My old horse is still the fittest of the whole lot, and I am the only one of the squadron which has been at work the whole time since we left the ship, and I would give anything to take him back home when we return.

Bloemfontein, April 3rd.

At ten minutes to twelve we got an order to turn out at twelve sharp, and went to Glen Spruit, and Captain Cox and myself got the squadron under way and we arrived at the camp at about 9 p.m.; but no sooner had we off saddled and fed the horses and laid down for a sleep that we got the order to saddle up and move off again. Next morning while on the look-out for some Boers we met the 2nd Brigade and then went on for some twelve miles and halted to give the horses a rest. We then proceeded in a semi-circular direction until we saw some Boers in a kopje. The guns remained behind to dislodge the Boers, while the cavalry went on till we were stopped by a 15-pounder shell fired at 2000 yards right in amongst us, blowing one poor fellow to pieces and wounding two others of the Australian Horse—we all opened out and the other shells did very little harm—except killing a few horses. We then formed line and prepared to charge, but the horses were too done up, so we dismounted and formed a firing line. Captain Cox and myself were

the only officers with the Lancers, and we took carbines from the men who were holding the horses. As we went up we were only a yard from each other and a Martini Henri bullet came shrieking along and tore up the ground just a couple of inches from my foot and just between us. The Lancers were congratulated by the Brigadier on their behaviour. Jack Wilkinson was in command of the Australian Horse. . . . Heron has been in hospital for about three weeks with a bad foot, but he came out again yesterday.

From (C. M. Fetherstonhaugh's Letter.)

Maitland Camp, Feb. 24.

This is a few miles out of Capetown and the dustiest place I ever struck, and up at the front it is twice as bad. Most of us wear dark glasses. A lot of artillery are here and we get on very well with the Britishers. They are real good sorts and think a lot of us and are always ready to have a talk. The British troops here think the Australians are fair terrors to ride—they were watching the horses play up the first time they had the saddles on. It is worth while to see the Britishers at drill and the way they do things—they are so awfully smart.

On train near De Aar, Feb. 27th.

We got the news this morning that Cronje had surrendered at last. We have been 40 hours in the train and shall be another 8. We have just passed a train load of Boer prisoners from the Modder. They were taking things easy, they wear no uniforms and were dressed about the same as Australian bushmen. It is awfully barren looking country, you can't see any grass, and not

a tree is in sight as a rule. We have been going through kopjes for ever so long. Most of the big hills are flat-topped. We get fruit all along the line, mostly grapes—they are very good. All our fellows have put on weight since we left Sydney. Everything is awfully dear here—just double Sydney prices, especially for eatables.

Bloemfontein, March 23rd.

Still in camp 4 or 5 miles out of Bloemfontein and likely to be here some weeks, as three-fourths of the horses are unfit to travel. Many have hard saddles all as flat as pancakes. Really good feed all round here. We are doing very well in the food line, we have Indian flour, bread, sugar and tea and are living in luxury. We have been on half rations for a while—3 biscuits a day and bit of hard meat in the middle of the day. We have no tents, but our force have built a humpy of old corrugated iron and are now all right. We use light new helmets as our own have gone to pieces. I am all right and in good condition; some of our fellows have been left behind which was bad luck. The regiment had to cross a plain from one kopje to another to take up a position and the Boers were firing at them all the way across, several men and horses were shot. Our force was guarding the ammunition van and had to come along at a slow rate after the regiment, as the mules were knocked up. The Boers let us have it properly as we came across, none of us were hit, but the bullets were too close to be comfortable.

Near Karee Siding, April 2nd.

We are camped about 20 miles from Bloemfontein. We are on the right flank of the army which extends about 35

miles along its front. We had a big engagement with the enemy three days ago at Karee Kloof; nine of our men were lost. There are a lot of Boers about here, and there should be another battle or two shortly. We have to do a lot of outpost and patrol work day and night. Our camp is in a hollow, and we have thrown up breast work and dug trenches, etc., all round, as we are liable to attack at any time. We have to stand at arms at daybreak every morning. It's lovely country all round here—would fatten anything. The Free State mutton is prime. I am very well but very dirty. I'll have to leave Old Ben Bolt (C.M.F.'s horse) here.

Karee Kloof, April 17th.

We are still here—all the Colonial troops are to be brigaded under Major-General Hutton. We have to be remounted and refitted and are to be called Mounted Rifles. We are all pleased to be under General Hutton. [*The General distributed the prizes at our 94 Speech Day, and gave an address on the soldier's watchwords "Duty and Honour." C.M.F. was one of the prize-takers on that occasion.—Ed. T.B.*]. A few shots have been exchanged about here, and one of our men was shot a few days ago. For a week or two our regiment was furthest out in front so we must be reckoned pretty good. Many of our men have to sleep in trenches every night. Nobody ever gets cold here and we have not been under canvas since we left Maitland Camp in February; we sleep better if anything on the hard ground and one blanket than at home on a bed. Yesterday we had a sports' meeting—no shots were fired anywhere and so we had a peaceful afternoon. The best

thing was a mule race, niggers riding without saddle or whip. We had three-legged and Beetle races—each man blindfolded had to roll a stone up a hill backwards between his legs.

Poor old Ben Bolt pegged out yesterday—it's a wonder he lived so long; I feel quite lost without him—I was very fond of the old chap. The worst of it is I may miss a bit of a fight by not having a horse.

A number of our chaps are down with fever since we reached Bloemfontein. I hear we may get a trip to England when the war is over. All our boots are out at the toes and we want a general brush up.

We are enjoying the sun to-day, the first time for five days. We were in the trenches last night in the wet. The doctor came round this morning and inspected us, but no one was at all "cronk." We are camped on a farm belonging to a Boer who has banded in his arms. We are not supposed to touch the man's sheep, but somehow we had a couple of nice lambs for breakfast this morning. We did pretty well on pumpkins and potatoes for a while. We had lots of prickly pears too, but they have come to an end—the fruit is really good eating. A man who owns 6000 sheep out here is supposed to be wealthy.

Rusfontein, April 25th.

We are in camp at last three miles out of Bloemfontein. All the Australians will be camped here. It seems quite funny to sleep in tents again. About 60 of us went out yesterday about 7 miles with a lot of artillery, hoping to have a go at the Boers, but were had again. They fired a few shots at our scouts and captured one. There was fighting not far from us—the big guns and pom-poms were going strong.

April 29th;

Don't know how long we shall be here, but as soon as a big move is made I don't mind betting that we are near the front—General Hutton will see to that. He has been to church parade this morning, he often rolls up about 6.30 a.m. having a look round. Some remounts, military saddles, new clothes, &c., will be here soon, all our kits were sent up here a few days ago—mine was all right. We are feeding up here—men and horses—we get things from Town, jam is the principal item, anything sweet we are in for quick and lively. I am A1, never better in my life.

(From C. Fiaschi's letter.)

Nauwport. Feb. 17th.

We form "patrols," "escorts to convoys," "screens for artillery," "cossack's posts," "out-lying pickets," besides the ordinary picket-guards, and fatigue duties which are entailed in the general routine of camp life. It might interest you to know the exact value of these terms. For example a patrol, as worked by us, is at least 15 men with a lieutenant, who are up at 2 a.m. and on the march by 2.30 or 3 according to orders. Their duty consists of patrolling round the camp to see if any of the enemy are about, and as dawn is breaking to advance out in extended order to the out-lying country, keeping in touch with the enemy's patrol or to reconnoitre any allotted position or farm house given into their charge. This may, from the description, seem extremely easy, but when it is borne in mind (1) that we are fighting an enemy that will not come out of their kopjes on

to the veldt and who allow us to approach to within a few hundred yards without giving the least indication of their presence, for it must be remembered by those who have not seen these kopjes, that it is possible to have the hill swarming with foes, but, such is the excellence of the shelter afforded by boulders, that not a single one is discernible; (2) that when they move it is generally at dawn so that we have to be all alert watching them, so that they may not flank us, and lastly, but by no means leastly, we have to fight against the treachery of the farmers whose houses we have to visit. They are most difficult people to examine, as they will not speak English, though in most cases they can fluently. They explicitly declare their allegiance to Britain and generally are such a hypocritical race that if it were not for strenuous strong-mindedness they would completely disarm our fears, to leave us at the mercy of their allies, with whom they would by this time have communicated, and doubtlessly have had us surrounded. So the duties of a patrol are not easy. Unfortunately the same risk attends all manoeuvres on the battlefield, but a duty well performed on patrol is a duty worthy of praise. "Escorts for convoys," well! are regarded by us as "soft-snaps" though all have the same amount of danger: "Screens for artillery," comprises the total enveloping of the guns, both rear, flank, and front, inside a shell formed of cavalry, to disarm the fears of the enemy of an artillery attack. When the word is given we open out, springing open as it were like huge gates to right and left, by which time the guns are unlimbered and in action.

(From J. Mair's Letter,)

Gardens Camp, Kimberley, Feb. 25th.

On the day after I joined the Cape Mounted Police the maxim with which I was posted went out into the field to a bit of a fight at a place called Dronfield, about 6 miles to the north of Kimberley. We were fighting the whole afternoon, but, as we were out in the open veldt with no decent artillery to assist us, we were unable to take the position without very heavy loss; as we were suffering pretty heavily, we had to withdraw, though not without having left our marks behind us, for, as we afterwards ascertained, the Boers lost a good deal more heavily than we did, amongst others, having a Commandant killed. I had the man on my left killed, and my horse wounded, but escaped without a scratch. Indeed, right up to the present I have not been touched except by a small splinter of shell which hit me on the back of the hand and then hardly broke the skin, only swelling my hand up for a couple of days. Nor have I suffered from fever or scurvy which have been very prevalent during the siege, so that I have not been a single day absent from duty since I joined.

Our next affair was about a week afterwards when we went out beyond Kenilworth, one of the suburbs of Kimberley, to protect some cattle the Boers were attempting to capture. Our only casualty was Major Ayliff of our Corps, slightly wounded in the neck.

The same afternoon we went out again to Carter's Ridge, a ridge of kopjes to the South of Kimberley, where we caught it pretty stiffly and had to retire. Almost every day afterwards we made sorties, which, though we harrassed the enemy pretty considerably, and prevented them

from attacking the town, were quite indecisive, with the exception of one in which we drove the enemy back and captured 33 prisoners.

This went on week after week until one afternoon when Colonel Scott Turner of the Cameronians, who was in command of the Mounted Troops, decided to try and capture the Boer redoubts on Carter's Ridge from which they had been heavily shelling the town. So we went out and captured redoubts along the Ridge, all but one, about 75 yards from the last position we had gained, which was too strong; and in attempting to gain this the Colonel was shot through the head and killed. He was the bravest man I have ever seen, and, when shot, had a rifle in his hand firing at the enemy and leading his men on. We had a very heavy doctor's bill that evening, hardly anyone around me escaping without a wound, and some two or three. As usual we had to retire under cover of night.

A very gruesome thing happened in connection with the Colonel's death. He had been brought into our temporary camp, late in the evening, when it was very dark, from a distance of over a mile, by four men, and laid on the ground close to my gun. As he was lying all in a heap another man and myself straightened him out and covered his face, we then went to do the same to another man who was lying close by, thinking he was also dead, when he woke up and asked us what on earth we were doing with him. He had only been asleep.

After the Colonel's death we made very few sorties, as we had no one competent to lead us. Our chief duty was to go about two or three miles from Kimberley as guards to the cattle which

were sent out to graze, and here we had to lie very close as we were constantly being fired on from a distance both by rifle and artillery, which we could not see to reply to. However, very little damage was done to us in this way. The whole of the siege shell fire was being directed on the town from guns posted at different positions around the town, mostly from 9 pounders.

A certain amount of damage was done by this bombardment, principally to houses and other buildings, although several people were killed and wounded, mostly, I am sorry to say, women and children. However we used to treat this with the utmost derision after the first day or so; even the women and children hardly looking up when they heard a shell singing overhead, the children actually running, as soon as they saw a shell burst, to collect the fragments which they sold or kept as trophies of the siege. This got to such a pitch that special police had to be enrolled to keep the children in hand and out of danger. However, people began to laugh on the other side of their face when suddenly, one morning, a six inch breech-loading gun opened fire on the town from a high kopje called Kamfersdam, which consists of the debris of a mine about 3 miles from Kimberley. This gun did a very large amount of damage, and most effectually frightened the women folk. As soon as the gun fired they used to retire to shelters, dug in the ground at almost every house; the firing of the gun being signalled by trumpet from various points on the high head gears or poppet-heads of the mines. These shelters no doubt saved a great many lives, but were of course quite ineffectual against a shell striking them

direct. The state of terror got so great among the women that Mr. C. S. Rhodes, representing the De Beers' Mines, threw open two of the largest mine shafts for accommodation of refugees, and literally thousands of women with their children took advantage of them. They were accommodated at all the levels down to the 1500 foot level. The town took upon itself the responsibility of feeding them, and asked for volunteers to assist in the distribution of food; and, as my gun happened to be laid up for some repairs to the wheels for a few days, I offered myself. It was a pitiable sight to see drives simply crowded with women and children huddled together as close as they could pack in a damp, badly lighted tunnel, and looking eagerly for the food which we brought. The women and children, poor things, did not have to stay long down the mines, as on the fifth night the welcome news came in that General French with a large column was at Alexandersfontein, about seven miles away, and that the enemy were in full retreat all around. As soon as this was officially confirmed, all the people started to leave the mines, and we were kept at work all night getting them out. The next morning you would not have known Kimberley for the same town, with flags flying and all the shops open and people in the streets. As soon as I could get away I went down to the Imperial Encampment to try and see the N.S.W. Lancers, who I heard were in Kimberley with the relief column, and found them.

The Imperial Troops have chased every one away from the vicinity of Kimberley without much opposition. During the siege, which was at first called a "siege de luxe," but soon lost its name, we fared

pretty well for food. Of course all food supplies and eatables of all kinds were commandeered by the military authorities, and the civil population, as well as the troops were rationed. The rations allowed were not very luxurious, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb bread, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. meat, 2oz. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tea, 1oz. coffee, and 2oz. crushed mealies per day; the meat after the beginning of January being horseflesh. Any other supplies and luxuries, were only to be obtained on Medical Certificate. However, we managed to live and keep strong and hearty and in good fighting trim. I myself have lost quite a stone and a half, but never felt better in my life. In talking about these matters I must mention Mr. Rhodes and the whole of the De Beers' Company. They gave up all luxuries themselves, led by Mr. Rhodes. They sent the whole of the milk from the large herds of cattle, and the fruit and vegetables from their gardens to the hospitals and the women and children. They also lent their materials and labour and the use of their plant and coal, in making shelters from the shells and in running the various searchlights round the town, which bothered the enemy more than almost anything. Later on, when the mines were used as refuges, they used their own coal to run the cages, though they had to knock off pumping the water from the mines as the coal supply was so short. Altogether in one way and another, if we had not had the good fortune to have Cecil Rhodes locked up here with us, Kimberley would not have fared nearly so well as it has done. Cronje, we hear, is hemmed in and owns that he has practically no escape except through a miracle from Heaven, which, however, he appears to confidently expect. The Dutch

are not over scrupulous as to their observance of civilised methods of warfare. They repeatedly used the white flag as a means whereby to approach closer to us unopposed, and whilst we were unprepared, to open fire on us. They also consistently fired on the ambulance waggons, even though they are distinguished by unmistakable red cross flags, and used their own waggons to convey ammunition and reinforcements about. To such a pitch has their abuse of the white flag grown that Lord Roberts has issued an army order, that, unless the line from which the bearer of a flag of truce comes, is halted and has ceased firing, and it is clear that he comes for some amicable correspondence, and for no treacherous purpose, he is to be fired on. In other ways too they certainly do not behave as civilised people, and I think that if my fellow passenger in the "Moravian" with whom you may remember I had a discussion as to the rights and wrongs of England in undertaking the present war, had seen them as I have, both in their methods of warfare and in their civil life, he would alter his opinion. Well, I think I have outlined the events of our long four months imprisonment here, and about other matters you probably know more than I do from the papers, for we have had no news from the civilised world all this time, and very little has come in yet.

Garden's Camp, Kimberley,

We were reviewed by Lord Methuen the other day and complimented highly on what we had done. During the siege things were not as pleasant as we could have wished even apart from the shells which fell amongst us pretty thickly and which we very soon got used to. Rations were very short and to a man of my delicate

appetite, were only just enough to make one feel hungry. The meat was all horse flesh, and of course, as we could not kill any of the good horses, not generally very tender. However we all rubbed along with it very well and I feel in as good condition now as I ever did in my life, although I have lost a good deal of weight. As to the wounds, I have escaped scot free except for a bruise on the back of the hand from a splinter of shell which did not bother me in the least except being stiff for a couple of days. I have had two or three bullets through my clothes and one struck my field glasses and broke them but not one has touched me.

Kimberley is merely a collection of broken down iron shanties, with a few small decent brick buildings, and huge mounds of stuff that have come out of the mine, two or three hundred feet high, whilst for one white person you see there are ten negroes. It is rather hard to get on at first without being able to speak Dutch, but I am learning that and Kaffir fast.

White Horse Hotel, Capetown, 19/4/1900.

I have just recovered from a rather nasty attack of enteric fever and have been sent down to the sea to recruit my health. . . . A few days after I wrote we were ordered out of Kimberley to take a town called "Boshoff" and set out in great spirits thinking we were going to see some decent fighting, as we had a column about 5000 strong, including artillery, Cavalry and Infantry; but rather to our disappointment no enemy showed up till we came within 5 miles of

Boshoff, when a few shots were fired at us from one side of a Dutch patrol who promptly bolted and got clear away. I had the luck to get in the road of one of their bullets which just grazed the skin of my left forearm hardly drawing the blood, though it was very sore for a few minutes, just like a red hot iron laid on my arm. However it did not put me out of action as I only had to tie my handkerchief round it to stop the bleeding. Well, after that we had no opposition in entering Boshoff over which we hoisted the Union Jack. The townspeople, all women, seemed rather pleased that we had come, and sold us all manner of things to eat at wonderfully low prices. I had the first good square meal there since the siege of Kimberley started. We left a guard there and returned to Kimberley unmolested. Two days after we returned I felt so ill that I had to report sick, when I was promptly sent to hospital and told that I had enteric fever. I had a pretty bad time at first, being put into a ward with 24 other fever patients, who were dying as fast as they could be carried in and out and finally the talk of the people in delirium and one thing and another got so bad that I felt that I would have to get out of it or go mad; so I got myself transferred to a more private ward. Here I was most comfortable, the nurses being exceedingly kind. Last Tuesday I was shipped off here on six weeks' sick leave. I am quite well now though still very weak and shaky. However, a week or so of rest here by the sea will make me quite strong again.

School Notes.

THE Annual School Examination started on June 13th. The Examiners are the Rev. Canon Corlette, D.D. (for Divinity), W. H. Nicholls, Esq. B.A. (Classics and French), W. Newbery, Esq., M.A. (for Mathematics).

The Annual Athletic Sports' Meeting will take place in the Sydney Cricket Ground on or about August 8th. The Mile will be run off on or about August 2nd. Competitors should commence training during the holidays.

The G.P.S. Combined Sports Meeting will be held in the last week of next term. Special efforts are being made to make the Meeting a great success and in all probability there will be no charge for

admission, which will be by invitation only.

A. D. Fisher is captain of Football *vice* S. H. O. Holtermann left. Football colours have been awarded to R. S. Reid I, E. R. Way, R. J. Adams I.

The present term ends on Friday, June 22nd, and School reopens on Tuesday, July 17th at 2 p.m.

The Football fixtures for next term are as follows:—July 21, Royalist F.C. (H); July 28, St. Ignatius College (H); August 1, St. Joseph's College (H); August 4, Aoma F.C. (H); August 8, T.K.S. (H); August 11, T.S.C. (A); August 15, S.G.S. (A); August 18, Manly Federal F.C. (A); August 22, Newington C. (A); September 1, Nondescript F.C. (H).

S.C.E.G.S. Calendar.

1900.	
April 12th	Lent Term ends.
12th	Annual Boat Club Camp at Gladesville.
to 24th	
24th	Easter Term starts.
28th	G.P.S. Regatta. S.C.E.G.S. Champion Crew.
May 2nd	1st XV. v. University Vets. Won, 30—nil.
4th	Anniversary Day.
5th	Football Match. Past v. Present. Won by Present, 13—8. Old Boys' Union Annual Meeting and Dinner.
9th	1st XV. v. Aoma. Won, 22—nil.
12th	1st XV. v. Nondescripts. Won, 9—8.
16th	1st XV. v. S.G.S. Lost, 19—6.
18th	News of Relief of Mafeking. Thanksgiving Service.
19th	1st XV. v. St. Ignatius. Lost, 9—3.

May	23rd	Half Holiday for Relief of Mafeking.
	24th	Queen's Birthday.
	28th	1st XV. v. T.K.S. Lost, 37—nil.
	30th	1st XV. v. N.C. Lost, 26—nil.
June	2nd	1st XV. v. Hawkesbury College II. Won, 37—nil.
	4th	Junior Examination begins. 8 Candidates.
	13th	Annual School Examination begins.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The TORCH-BEARER will in future be published quarterly. The Subscription is 2s. 6d. per annum, post free.

Communications for the next number of the TORCH-BEARER should be sent in before the end of August, to "The Editors," S.C.E.G.S., North Sydney. Contributions should be written on *one side* of the paper only, and must be signed by the author as a guarantee of good faith and originality.

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