

and waving a Red Cross flag as a signal to the men in camp to indicate where they were to be found. Immediately on the whistle being heard, men in sections of threes and then of twos to a stretcher were dispatched to fetch the "wounded" in, after binding up imaginary ~~wounds~~ injuries to legs, arms, heads, shoulders, etc - first aid. At the camp they were received by Dr. Norwich who examined the work and pronounced his opinion upon it.

[At 7-30 the last meal was served and the evening spent in chatting, singing, games, etc. until at 9-30 Adjutant Gayfield's peremptory "lights out!" brought the day to a close.

[On Tuesday evening a concert was held, Messrs King, Layman, Gayfield, Bass, Barnett and others contributing songs and Dr. Norwich and Mr. E. B. Rose solos and selections on the banjo. At this concert the Capt. and some friends rendered several acceptable items.

[It had been intended to return to town on Wednesday morning, but so enjoyable were the first three days that

it was decided to prolong the stay until Thursday afternoon. On Tuesday morning at 3-30, few of the party returned to town, the wagon on its return in the evening, bringing out others and more provisions. Dr Horwich took several photos of the party, including a group of bathers. Ideal weather favored the picnickers during the whole of the time spent in camp.

[A word of praise is due to Sergeants Shirley and Krause, who, assisted by Private Horwitz, had sole charge of the commissariat department and who carried out their responsible duties in an admirable manner. Each day three excellent meals, besides afternoon tea, were served without the slightest hitch or delay, and considering the necessarily primitive cooking and other arrangements, this was a result which reflected the highest credit on the field work of those members of the corps.

[Thursday, the last day of the outing having duly arrived after breakfast camp was struck and the whole party was busily employed all the morning in taking down tents, packing up and loading everything on to the wagon and at 10 o'clock the last meal was served. Immediately afterwards

horses and mules were mispanned and at two o'clock a start was made for town, which was reached without adventure at about eight o'clock in the evening. The recollection of this outing is one of the pleasanter I retain of my life in Johannesburg during the war.

[What made the provision for all emergencies all the more creditable to the town was the fact that it was done quite spontaneously and voluntarily, and any appeal which was made for assistance invariably met with instant and generous response.

[At the beginning of the war the British Uitlanders were threatened with two fresh troubles; one in common with the rest of the community and the other entirely our own. They were respectively, a shortage of food supplies and a revision of permits; the one arising out of the other.

[The first was due to the action of the British Government, in endeavouring to make articles of food contraband of war and in seizing ships - principally German - in pursuance of that policy; the ships in question conveying goods to Delagoa

for consignment to the Transvaal. Owing, however, to
 the prompt action taken by the German Government and the
 equally prompt reversal of policy by the British Government
 a great immediate harm was done beyond ^{hardening} ~~great~~ the
 prices of a few lines of provisions, in anticipation
 of a shortage of stocks if the seizures were persisted in and
 repeated. But orders previously sent away were counter-
 ordered by cable, so that the pinch came a month or
 so later, when those consignments would, in the ordinary
 course, have come to hand. Thus it happened that from
 about the middle of January to the end of March a
 serious dearth in certain lines of provisions manifested
 itself - notably sugar, ^{condensed} milk, candles and paraffine.
 Sugar rose ^{to} and was selling for some little time at 2/6
 per lb. and many substitutes - honey, saccharine,
 etc were adopted in lieu of it. Milk cost 1/6
 per tin, paraffine 1/6 per pint and a few other articles
 rose to almost equally high prices.

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that the policy of preventing the importation of food-stuffs,
 had it been strictly carried out by an absolute
 blockade of Delagoa Bay, would have been quite futile.

as shortening the war was concerned, cannot be doubted by
 anyone who understands the conditions prevailing in the
 country. Had not sixpennyworth of food been imported
 to the Transvaal for twelve months, it would not have
 aided the duration of the war by a single day, simply
 because all that was really necessary for the burghers was
 produced in the country itself, except tea and sugar, of
 which, ^{however,} it was understood the Government had a
 two years' supply.

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The only result, then, would have been to cause a total
 clearance of the ~~country~~ ^{country} of all nation-
 alities - numbering over 27,000 on the Transvaal alone -
 a consequent accentuation of the refugee problem
 in the Cape and Natal; already, one would have
 a situation, sufficiently perplexing and acute. The actual
 result of the attempt so far as it was made, was to increase
 the precariousness of the position and raise the cost of living
 for the aliens and neutrals who remained in the country
 with or without permits. Such a clearance as that
 suggested was seriously urged by the more intensely
 anti-alien amongst the Boers, and there is no doubt that

had the stoppage of food-stuffs been persisted in it would have
been carried out, whilst as it was
the revision of the permits granted to British subjects decided upon
at this time, was in a measure due to this attempt to
restrict the importation of food-stuffs into the ~~country~~ ^{country}.

On the 16th of January we were informed by notice to
that effect in the papers; - that all permits to British subjects
were cancelled, and that fresh applications must be made
for a permission to remain in the country, and a Com-
mission composed of all the principal local officials
was appointed to consider the applications and report
to the Government thereupon.

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But the result came in the shape of a somewhat pleas-
ant surprise, for, on the revised list of names of those
recommended by the Commission for renewal of permits
being submitted to President Kruger for confirmation
he would have none of it; saying, that as long as the
fishers conducted themselves in an orderly manner
there was no reason or necessity for turning them out of
the country. He even went so far as to deprecate the
action of certain of the Continental aliens amongst
special Police officials who, more anti-British
than the Boers themselves, had caballed to obtain a

wholesale clearance of the Britishers. The President went on to say that as regarded a possible shortage of food, if they - the Boers - had to starve he supposed that the Britishers would have to starve with them, unless they voluntarily left the country, but that was a matter which they would have to decide for themselves. The only people of British nationality, he continued, who would have to leave the State were those who committed any serious breach of the regulations under martial law and thus brought themselves into the category of unfortunates, but so long as they behaved themselves and observed their duty of neutrality, they would be allowed to remain in the country, and would be protected by the Government equally with persons of other nationality.

But the manner in which the indulgence - one might almost say the hospitality - of the Pretorian Government was subsequently abused and betrayed by some of the people towards whom such consideration was shown, was simply disgraceful. Every reverse suffered by the Boers; the relief of Kimberley and of Ladysmith, the surrender of General Cronje, the occupation of Bloemfontein was celebrated by champagne suppers, smoking

concerts, dances and the singing of "God save the Queen" and "Rule Britannia" half through the night at the clubs, the banks and other establishments where British subjects mostly congregated; whilst as a crowning insult towards the people whose hospitality they were enjoying, towards the end of March, lists for signatures were taken around and subscriptions collected for, ^{the purpose of} forming a reception committee and providing a banquet to welcome Lord Roberts on his expected entry into Johannesburg! A fitting climax to the conduct of the British as depicted in this chapter.

And these actions it must be remembered, were those of men who had taken an oath to observe the strictest neutrality towards the State while the war lasted, or as long as they remained in the country.

What wonder then, that the Government, complaisant, lenient it had always shewn itself to be, especially during the war, should at length have felt compelled to make a drastic provision of permits, leading to almost a clearance of British subjects yet remaining in Johannesburg?

Thus it happened that at the beginning of April a notice ~~was issued~~ issued calling upon all British

subjects on the Witwatersrand Goldfields to leave the
 country within five days; except those whose names appeared
 on an accompanying list of some four hundred names
 these constituted the persons
~~these~~ whose permits were renewed. And, as so frequently
 happens, the innocent had to suffer for ~~the~~ the guilty;
 many hundreds of quiet, well-behaved persons having
 to leave through the insensate folly of their fellow-coun-
 trymen. [No one, and least of all, the Boers, with their own
 true patriotism, would expect these ^{people} to feel otherwise than
 gratified at the successes attending the operations of their country's
 army in the field of strife, but, nevertheless, after
 almost literally grovelling - as some of them certainly did -
 the Boer authorities for permission to remain in the
 State, ~~some~~ in common decency have restrained
 their feelings and refrained from exhibiting exultation
 while taking advantage of the indulgence extended to them
 the Boers.

What made this conduct the more inexcusable was the
 quite exemplary behaviour of the Boers themselves. Never
 during the whole course of the war was there the
 smallest sign of elation or of crowing over their



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numerous victories over their British opponents. Still
 as ever, they took their successes in the
 quiet, matter-of-fact manner which invariably char-
 acterises them, just as they afterwards met their reverses
 with almost the same philosophical spirit. Men who had
 proved themselves heroes in the fullest sense of the term
 returned from the front without the least ^{in their favor} demonstration
 of ^{after} successes like Moderspruit, Hornberg, Scholtzky,
 Leuson, and the other ~~Sagela~~ victories not an extra
 gun was raised in token of jubilation nor other out-
 ward sign of gratification. ~~They~~ ^{are} singularly
 plain and reserved people. Absolutely the only demon-
 strations witnessed in Jhannesburg in connection with
 the war were the cheers raised on the trains leaving
 the station with the burghers returning to the scene
 of action, sometimes for the second or third time, after
 short leave of absence from the front. What a commen-
 tary upon the conduct of the Vorkauers!

A propos of this revision of permits the following incident,
 somewhat amusing in itself, will also serve to prove
 that the Government officials were fully alive to what

as taking place and ^{further,} that they had been very long-suffering
 a certain wealthy British Nirkander, whom we will
 designate M^r B. and whose ^{own} permit had been renewed
 at up to the office of M^r R. G. Ockerse, the Mining
 Commissioner to plead for the renewal of that of ~~that~~
 man-servant, whose name did not appear in the list
 the favored ones. On being informed by a clerk of the
 nature of the ~~error~~ upon which his ^{visitor} had come. M^r
 Ockerse expressed his regret at not being able to accede
 his request, and then, as M^r B. was turning away
 rested him with "And now, M^r B. you would
 mind giving M^r B. himself a hint from me as
 his own conduct in future if he wishes to retain
 permit. Let me see—" turning over some papers
 still speaking "Ah, here it is;" Reading. # "M^r B.
 Feb - champagne supper at the club to celebrate
 relief of Kimberly. M^r B. on char - champagne
 supper, ^{at the club} to celebrate the relief of Ladysmith and the
 surrender of Gen. Cronje. M^r B. on char - at -
 M^r B.'s residence at Doornfontein. "Cham-
 pagne supper to celebrate the occupation of Bloemfontein

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