

Lord Roberts. Now " he continued " we don't in the
 next mind Mr. C. entertaining his friends and thus
 exhibiting his patriotism on such occasions of success
 in his country, but don't you think that he might make
 a little less open parade of his sentiments under the
 circumstances and while he is accorded the privilege of
 remaining in the State? I would suggest that, as a
 friend of Mr. C's you might convey a hint to him
 in me to that effect". Of course, the pith of the joke
 consisted in the fact that Mr. Ockerse, although addressing
 Mr. C. himself, ~~repeated~~ spoke of him, and spoke
 of him as though he were an emissary of Mr. C. It
 scarcely necessary to add that the face of the man
 as neatly carpeted was a study in conflicting and
 during the time that his proceedings were thus
 enumerated.

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Chapter VIII

Our amusements - exciting war news - Boer reverses
- they waver and rally - causes of the latter ^{- expatriation of Boers} - death of
^{an absurd policy} General Goubert - his successes - his magnanimity -
his humanity - ^{the} casualties ^{of} Kimberley
and Lad-smith - Did the Boers conceal their casualties?

To revert to earlier in the year; to the first revision of
 fruits, assured of a continuance of them, we again
 fled down to the hum-drum routine of everyday
 life, with very little, except at intervals, in the
 way of either excitement or amusements to break the
 monotony of existence. As regards the latter, of course all
 theatres and other ordinary places of amusement were
 closed and an occasional cricket match and a still
 more occasional concert or ^{amateur} theatrical performance - gener-
 ally organized for the benefit of one or other of the various
 charitable joints - constituted the whole of the amusements
 to which we had to beguile the tedium of the slowly-
 passing weeks and months. And even our amusements were
 entirely without their drawbacks and ^{occasional inconveniences,} ~~inconveniences.~~ On one
 occasion, after a performance of "Barbara" in the Gaiety
 Theatre, the audience, on coming out were considerably
 surprised to find that nearly all the cab-horses had
 commandeered during the performance, and
 had, perforce, to reach their homes on "shank's pony."
 This happened during January and the greater part
 of February, beyond the incidents mentioned, to call

a momentary weariness, the war was prosecuted if anything with greater vigor than before.

[Amongst the various causes which served to rally the Boers at this time is one which has not received the attention which its undoubted important effect in this direction has entitled it to. I refer to the decision to expatriate the captured Boers to St. Helena. Writing as one who was in the country all the time and therefore had every opportunity of gauging effects and judging events as they transpired, I assert without hesitation and with the fullest conviction of the truth of the assertion, that the thing which undoubtedly served more than any other single cause to rally the Boers for the remainder of February and March was the news of the intention on the part of the British authorities to deport their captured fellow-countrymen out of South Africa; a decision which roused deep and bitter resentment amongst not only the Boers but the whole Dutch population throughout South Africa. And of all the mistakes and blunders committed during the war this one was by far the greatest, ^{and the most directly responsible for the indefinite prolongation of the war} since the action was generally regarded as a wanton outrage upon the national sentiment of the Boers.

[Nor will those who really know and understand the Boers

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experience any difficulty in believing this. With the average
 man the feeling of attachment to the land of his birth is more
 than a mere sentiment, however strong; it amounts to a
 heritable passion, the strength and intensity of which is
 simply not understandable by those who have not come
 into actual contact with him. Add to this an equally
 intense antipathy to and fear of the sea or ~~that~~ of
 travelling on the water and we can understand his horror
 at the very idea of being forcibly deported from his country
 and sent to be brued not what kind of fate across the sea. It
 is morally certain that had Gen. Cronje and his men any
 idea that such a fate awaited them they would not have
 seen as many hundreds surrender as there were in fact
 thousands taken prisoners upon that occasion. It may
 then be readily understood that seeing no other fate in
 store for them than this, the Boers from that time began
 to fight with the courage not only of an intense patriotism
 but of despair - always the most extreme in degree. "So
 farewell hope, and with hope farewell fear."

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The fact that their fears were either quite undefined or
 greatly exaggerated does not in the least affect the question,

the feeling, the sentiment, the passion was there and should have been taken into consideration when deciding upon such an important matter. If then there exists one man who, more than any other, must bear the responsibility, not only for the continuation of hostilities but for accentuating a hundred-fold the already bitter racial feeling existing between the two white nationalities in South Africa - a result which also ensued from the adoption of this apartheid policy - it is the man, whoever he may be, who was primarily responsible for this policy of expatriation of the captured Boers; since had he deliberately intended to prolong the war he could not possibly have invented a better method of obtaining the desired result than the policy under review. I was deeply impressed with the remarks made to me by a friend of mine, a highly-educated bourgeois of very progressive ideas, who on learning the decision of the British authorities exclaimed "Why! what is the matter with your people; are they mad? They must be if they think that that is going to stop the war. You will see now whether the Boers will fight to the bitter end." and unfortunately we have seen.

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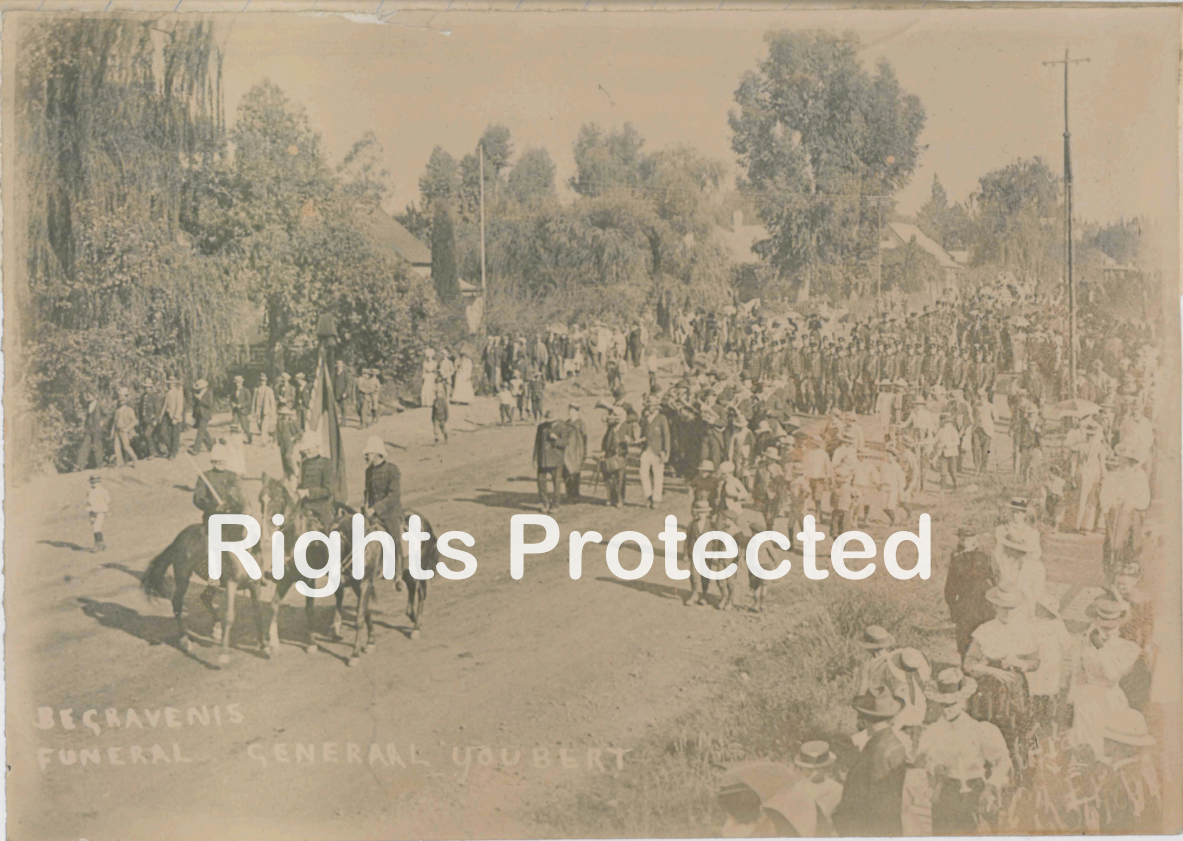


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[The first instance where this anticipated effect was seen in operation was in connection with the engagement at Sammaspost, shortly after the exile of Gen. Cronje and his men was decided upon. The report of this affair received in Johannesburg contained the following significant announcement: - "For the first time since the commencement of the war the Federals pursued their retreating enemies; keeping up the chase for several miles and firing upon them repeatedly and effectively, in some cases while at full gallop."

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[A peculiarly pathetic incident in connection with the war was the death of old Commandant-General Joubert in the midst of his strenuous efforts to save his country from its threatened fate of national extinction. Gen. Joubert was a man of many sterling qualities; a man, indeed, whom to know was to respect and admire. His sobriquet of "Slim Piet" very accurately indicated one phase of his character to those who understood the term "slim" as used by the Boers. It is an adjective which has no exact equivalent in any English word, but expressed in English



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BEÇRAVENIS
FUNERAL GENERAL YONBERT

it means as nearly as possible a compound in about equal proportions of shrewdness, caution and smartness; but in a perfectly honorable sense.

[The event took place on March 27 and the news came as a great surprise to most people in Johannesburg. It was known that he had never fully recovered from an accident in the field soon after the commencement of the war by which he had sustained internal injury, and that he was then at his home in Pretoria ill in consequence of a relapse. But very few had any idea that he was dangerously or even seriously ill until the day upon which the news of his death was received. There is no doubt that the serious reverses suffered by the Boers just previously, especially the capture of Gen. Cronje and the large number of men with him preyed upon his mind and greatly accelerated his death. The majority of the Britlanders - British included - were equally grieved to hear of his death, with the Boers. And rightly so, since his kindly disposition and progressive views as well as the efforts he had made to secure reforms had caused a special feeling of regard for him to be entertained by all who came in contact with him.

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