

# BOERS DECLARE WAR AND COMMENCE MOST AGGRESSIVE ACTS!

**JOHANNESBURG, Oct. 12.**—War was declared yesterday. The formal declaration occurred at 10 o'clock this morning.

**VRYBURG, Cape Colony, Oct. 12.**—A body of Boers have cut the border fence, advanced to the railway and cut the telegraph wires. Two thousand Boers are now occupying the railroad line.

**LONDON, Oct. 12.**—When the Cabinet meets at noon to-day it is evident the Boer advance will be in full swing. Judging from present appearances the Boers are preparing for a simultaneous invasion on five separate points—Ladysmith, Kimberley, Vryburg, Mafeking and Lobatse. Therefore, it is almost impossible to guess the plan of campaign. A dispatch from Durban, dated Thursday morning at 3 o'clock, announces that the Boers seized Albertina station and demanded the keys, which were delivered to them by the station master, who reached Ladysmith on a trolley car. The excitement at Ladysmith is increasing and the troops are ready to act at a moment's notice.

It is now definitely known that the British Government sent no final proposals to Pretoria. The Transvaal's ultimatum forestalled that intention.

News received thus far shows that no shot has yet been fired. The evacuated district between Charlestown and New-Natal, has an area of 250 square miles, and consists chiefly of hilly moorland, sparsely populated.

The Jacobsdal command of the Free State Boers is marching on the Modder River.

There is no abatement in the anti-English feeling on the Continent. The Times' Berlin correspondent declares that the German nation as a whole is unfriendly to England and that there would be rejoicing on all sides if England should suffer disaster, just as the people were ready to rejoice had America suffered defeat at the hands of Spain.

Advices from Vienna report that at an anti-Semitic meeting there Burgomaster Lueger included both the United States and the Republic of Liberia in a charge of ruthlessness and thirst for gold, especially criticizing America in her economic dealings with Europe. Herr Lueger, in the course of his speech, paid homage to the patriotism and love of liberty displayed by the Boers.

The Daily Mail's correspondent at Lobatse, telegraphing on Wednesday, says: "The Boers are on the border preparing to cross at 3 o'clock to-day. A messenger sent to the Boers asking them to spare the women and children has been detained."

The home preparations for war are growing apace. The reservists are responding more actively to the proclamation ordering their mobilization and the Government has engaged more transports.

The morning papers are discussing at some length the authority of the documents which have recently emanated from President Kruger's Government. Dr. Leyds, the European representative of the South African Republic, is generally credited with the authorship of the ultimatum.

The Daily Mail says: "Certainly neither President Kruger nor State Secretary Ritz drafted the message to the New York World, and it is more probable that Mr. Smuts (State Attorney) is the author of this and the ultimatum."

President Kruger is credited with declining to quit Pretoria, declaring that, "like a faithful captain, he will remain on the bridge whether the ship rides safely in the harbor or goes down into the deep."

Harry Eecombe, former Prime Minister of Natal, was among the last to leave Charlestown. He still doubts whether the Boers will really move into Natal.

Coryngham Greene, when bidding farewell to the Transvaal Government, mentioned the case of the Englishman Robertson, who is imprisoned at Pretoria on a charge of attempting to raise recruits at Johannesburg for the Natal Light Horse. His friends are seriously concerned for his safety and have appealed to the American Consul on his behalf.

## NON-COMBATANTS MUST LEAVE MAFEKING

**MAFEKING, Cape Colony, Oct. 12.**—As

the Boers in strong force threaten this place the situation is so serious that all non-combatants have been notified that they will be taken away at the expense of the Imperial Government and housed at Cape Town. A railroad train carrying 200 women and children was escorted by a detachment of Colonel Baden-Powell's force as far south as Vryburg, where the Cape railway becomes responsible for the safety of the passengers.

**LONDON, Oct. 12.**—Albertina, which a dispatch from Durban reported as having been seized on Thursday by the Boers, is a station in the Free State on the Harrismith line. Harrismith is equipped and officered entirely by Natal troops. Durban advices received here say that the Royal Irish Fusiliers have arrived there and that military headquarters are being removed to Ladysmith, whither General Sir George Stewart White, General Sir Archibald Hunter and General Symonds, with their staffs, have already gone.

## MAFEKING PREPARES FOR AN ATTACK

**CAPE TOWN, Oct. 12.**—Advices from Mafeking say that precaution has been taken against attack and all the streets are barricaded. According to these advices the Boers intend to shell the town before delivering their attack. They are said to possess twelve guns. Every man in Mafeking is carrying a rifle and the military authorities are confident that they will be able to repel attack, but they lack the force necessary to follow a Boer retreat. The convent sisters and many ladies have elected to stay and nurse the wounded and houses have been converted into hospitals. The searchlight on the fort is kept working across the veldt.

Three Boer spies have been arrested in the town. Railway communication to the southward is practically at the mercy of the Boers, over 200 miles of the line being within easy striking distance of the enterprising commandos.

Sad scenes occurred at the railway station on the departure of the women and children by train. It is thought that even should the main line be blown up at any point the damage can be repaired within a few hours.

## BADEN-POWELL'S FORCE TAKES DEFENSIVE GROUND

**LONDON, Oct. 12.**—A dispatch from Mafeking under to-day's date says that Colonel Baden-Powell has just sent a strong British force from Mafeking toward the border with field guns and ambulances, presumably with a view of occupying advantageous defensive high ground.

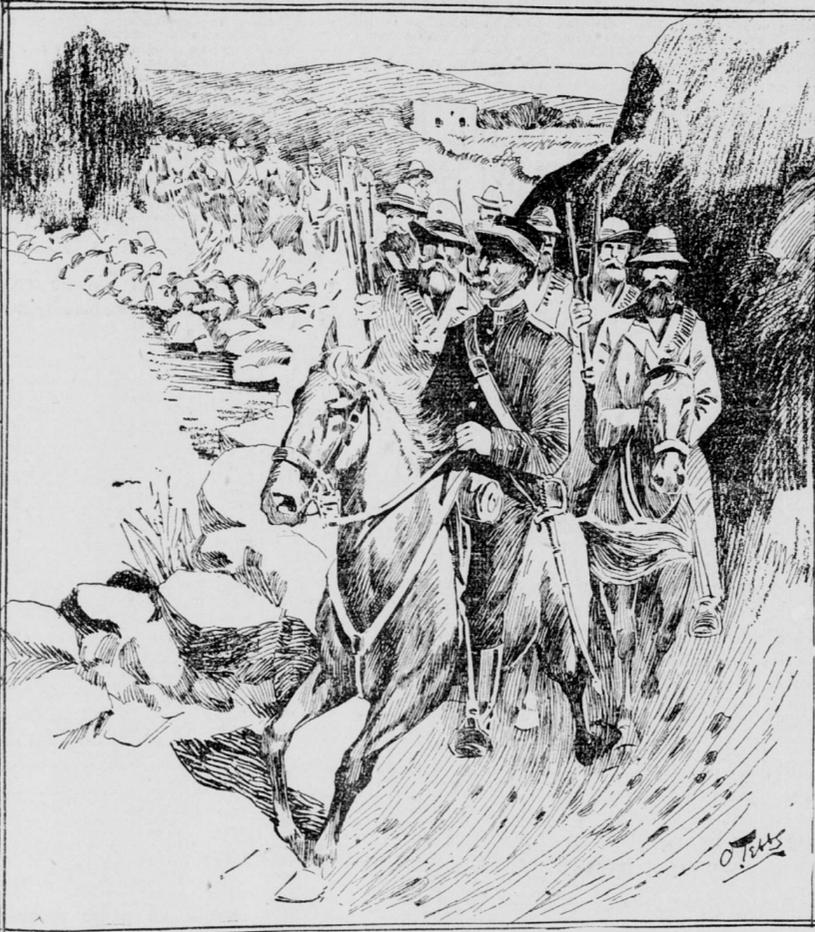
Dispatches from Durban, Natal, confirm the report that the Orange Free State authorities seized the Natal train that was leaving Ladysmith yesterday morning for Harrismith. They also stopped a train due to leave Harrismith in the afternoon. All the rolling stock has been ordered down the country out of reach of seizure.

It is understood that telegraphic communication with the Transvaal ceased punctually at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon (Transvaal time).

## MAKES COMMON CAUSE WITH THE TRANSSVAAL

**LONDON, Oct. 12.**—In reply to the formal inquiry of Sir Alfred Milner, Governor of Cape Colony and British High Commissioner in South Africa, President Steyn of the Orange Free State announces that the State will make common cause with the Transvaal.

**CAPE TOWN, Oct. 12.**—It is learned here that the Free State traders have been heavily commandeered and have refused to import more goods, and it is expected



Field Cornet Bringing in a Commando.

(From a Sketch Made for Black and White.)

## BIG ADVANCE IN ATLANTIC FREIGHT RATES

**NEW YORK, Oct. 12.**—According to ocean freight agents in the Produce Exchange, Atlantic freight rates have advanced on an average of five shillings a ton. This increase is due to the fact that the English Government has chartered more than eighty steamers. More than one-half of these were used in the Atlantic trade. Agents say that they will not know what boats have been taken until the steamships are ready to leave the other side. Then they will be notified that the vessels have been taken. Within the last few weeks ocean freight rates are said to have advanced 25 to 30 per cent.

## HALIFAX GOES TO THE CAPE

**HALIFAX, N. S., Oct. 12.**—The military authorities here are active in view of the Transvaal situation. Lord Seymour has issued an order for all the reserve men in and about Halifax to be prepared to shoulder guns and go to the Cape if necessary. To-day the whole reserve force here was notified of the War Department's instructions. The order to the reserves was that they may be required to go to the Cape. There are several hundred reserves in Halifax.

## WOMEN AND CHILDREN SENT FROM MAFEKING

**CAPE TOWN, Oct. 12.**—At 6:10 Wednesday evening three carriages containing women and children, but not a single white man except sick ministers, were dispatched from Mafeking. The preparations for the defense of Mafeking are excellent. It is reported by natives at Mafeking that they were robbed of money by the Boers at Malmani.

The news of the ultimatum created no excitement at Mafeking. A transport rider suspected of carrying details daily across the border has been arrested there.

## STRICT NEUTRALITY OF THE UNITED STATES

**WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.**—Although urged to tender the mediation of the United States to aid Great Britain in her operations against the Boers, and again to assist President Kruger's forces in opposing the British, President McKinley has decided to maintain strict neutrality in the South African war. The official announcement of this as the attitude of the United States was made by the State

**LONDON, Oct. 12.**—Following is the text of the British reply to the Boer ultimatum:

"Chamberlain to Milner, High Commissioner, sent 10:45 p. m., October 10, 1899:

"Her Majesty's Government has received with great regret the peremptory demands of the South African republic, conveyed in your telegram of October 9. You will inform the Government of the South African republic in reply that the conditions demanded by the Government of the South African republic are such as her Majesty's Government deems it impossible to discuss."

Department up to the close of office hours to-day, nor had the department been informed that war had actually been declared. It is understood that Consul Macrum, stationed at Pretoria, is well equipped with instructions relative to the course he shall pursue, both in the matter providing protection for Americans and in looking after British interests, and that he will take action immediately upon receipt of a direction to make proper representation to the Kruger government relative to the assumption by this Government of the protection of British interests. Mr. Macrum called the State De-

partment inquiring as to the method to be pursued in the matter of certification of American citizens, and it is presumed that this inquiry was prompted by a desire to furnish the Boer Government with a list of Americans in the Transvaal.

Acting Secretary Adee in reply informed him that Americans should be registered in the consulate, and the fact of such registration ought to prevent their getting involved in any trouble, provided, of course, that, following the example of their Government, they remained strictly neutral.

## ARMORED TRAIN REPORTED DESTROYED

Big Loss of Life Will Result, and the News Is Unofficially Confirmed.

**CAPE TOWN, Oct. 13.**—A dispatch from Vryburg says an armored train has been destroyed. It is feared that much loss of life will result. The news has been unofficially confirmed.

The first shot of war, it is now admitted, has been fired. Before Kruger's ultimatum was issued it came from a Boer patrol, who fired on the mail train from Natal. The seizure of a mail train in the Free State at Harrismith is also reported.



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Colonel Baden-Powell's Movement From Mafeking.

View of Mafeking and the country east to the Transvaal border, some nine or ten miles distant, across which, near Otsohoop and Rooigrond, Boers to the number of 3500 are said to be in "laager" preparing for a raid. The troops in the foreground are Colonel Baden-Powell's forces, which left Mafeking yesterday for a more favorable position nearer the frontier. The road they are on is the same by which the Jameson raiders left Mafeking for Johannesburg in 1895. The border line runs to the southeast, between the last two hills shown on the right.