

OOM PAUL'S HARDY DUTCHMEN

Unique and Effective Fighting Methods of South African Freemen.

PREPARED TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH

Go Into Battle with Prayers on Their Lips and Their Rifle Sights on the Middle of the Enemies' Belts.

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The Transvaal Boer is always ready to fight at any minute of the day, and he may be at it before this article is printed. He carries his rifle on his shoulder and a piece of fat long in his pocket, marching around over the veldt so that if a field cornet gallops up to tell him that war has been declared he may start for the front instantly.

to take the few cannon that were in Pretoria and go out to meet the invaders. "Oh, no, Piet," said Oom Paul, "don't you suppose 200 of our old farmers with their rifles can stop 2,000 ruiders?"

The result proved that Kruger was right. The whole force that fought Jameson consisted of 400 men in two divisions summoned in a few hours from the open veldt. Jameson began the attack with artillery. The old plansmen laughed at this.

"Every man take to a rock," ordered Commandant Cronje, and the farmers dodged behind rocks and trees.

How the Boers Fight. At the proper moment they advanced in Indian file in two divisions, opening a deadly fire at 500 yards. The reformers then cut loose with Maxims, but for once the machine guns which have been used to mow down the African natives were of no avail.

It is a common sight to meet in the open veldt two or three strapping girls swinging along with a rifle on the lookout for hart-beeste or turkey buzzards. In fact the women count on doing their share of the fighting. Since the Boers left Cape Colony in 1839 the feminine portion have been accustomed to loading a rifle behind the laager and if necessary firing it at a black face. In case of war with the English they are supposed to look after the flocks and herds and defend the homestead, and every Boer but in the Transvaal in wartime is a fortified block-house defended by a company of girls and boys with the mother of the home in command.

What they most fear is an uprising of the natives, the very thought of which gives every white person in South Africa a chill then or there. If a chieftain should arise with the ability of Dingonee or Johaka at the time when the English and Boers were at war the consequences would be too horrible to think of. With the bloodthirsty nature of the North American Indian and surpassing him in vicious cruelty, the African native could wipe out the whole population of South Africa, so greatly do they outnumber them.

Surrounded by Vicious Natives.

Mus. Mr. Kruger counts on being able to muster at the very most 65,000 men in the Transvaal and Orange Free State, but around him are 367,000 natives, little better than savages, who are only waiting for an opportunity to massacre white men, not being particular whether they are Boere or English. The English town of Durban, Natal, contains 40,000 white persons. Just north of them are 500,000 Zulus, who are the bravest black fighters in South Africa. No one knows what

suffered in their fight with the Boers to the extent of 832 men the Transvaal farmers' loss has been but 52 and at that rate they believe they can at least maintain a long war with the English.

A war with the Boers will prove a costly proceeding to England, for Kruger's first plan is to rush out from the Orange Kimberley and wreck the diamond mines that have produced \$400,000,000 worth of diamonds in twenty-five years. There is a militia regiment at Kimberley, but it is not strong or well-armed and they could not withstand an attack by the Boers. The diamond mines he could devastate at his leisure. They produce \$125,000,000 worth of gold every year and are owned almost entirely by Englishmen.

Lain's Nek is a pass in the Drakensberg mountains and it is the key to Natal. It is a plain to the east and from there they ravish the colony of Natal. It would be easier for him to destroy the railroad communication, and the Nek is pierced by a tunnel 2,113 feet long and the Natal railroad worms its way around mountain peaks at a great height and one sortie would suffice to destroy the road.

IN THE WHEELING WORLD.

If the poet who wrote of "the melancholy days" of autumn was now in the land of the living he would undoubtedly revise and amend his song. At the time they were unquestionably "melancholy" days. There were no bicycles to speed oppressed warriors from city noises and odors out into the golden haze of autumn. No wonder his soul was saddened. But times have changed. Now the melancholy days of yore are glorious by the side of the present and the gorgeous hues of woods and fields and the pure, invigorating air of Indian summer are within the reach of all. It is the season of the year when cycling is a genuine pleasure. The excessive heat of summer has gone and with it the oppression and weariness of wheeling in hot weather. The weather of the last week was ideal, a foretaste of what the weather clerk has in stock for the favored residents of the Missouri valley.

Of all the popular mistakes about bicycling that of the hump or camel back is the most common. We are told that the habit of leaning forward upon the handle bars so as to get greater leverage upon the pedals and to offer less resistance to the air, has a tendency to bring about an abnormal development upon the back and shoulders which is called the "bicycle hump." Nothing could be more absurd. Just note the first wheelman you see scorching toward you with body well bent over his seat, and the protrusion of the neck at a distance what appears from your point of vision to be a rounding or hump between the shoulder blades at the back of the neck. As he approaches this fancy will be shown to have been but an optical illusion and when you are close to him you will see that the body is perfectly straight, bent only at the hips. The very forward pressure of the man's weight upon the handlebars has a tendency to force the shoulder blades squarely back, so that if it were possible to cause a deformity it would be that of a hollow back rather than that of a hump.

On the other hand, by way of contrast, note the man who sits bolt upright in the saddle. As he faces you you are again deceived. He appears to be erect and his shoulders are far from protruding. In fact, note, if he be an old wheelman, that there is a decided tendency to roundness or drooping of the shoulders caused by his method of obtaining leverage to work his pedals. Being upright he cannot get sufficient power in his weight, and he is obliged to lean forward on his seat, and as he encounters, so he must pull forward upon his grips, and it is this constant downward tension that sooner or later brings about a more or less slanting of the shoulder from that square form, the pride of every athlete.

The New York Tribune relieves itself, in half a column editorial, of an essay on the foolishness of Omaha wheelmen who seek the repeal of the lamp ordinance. The Tribune's interest in the question is prompted by the mistaken idea that the League of American Wheelmen in this city is the sole source of the demand for repeal. L. A. W. men hereabouts cut a very small figure. They are few and far between. The objection to lamps is fostered by independent organizations of wheelmen and is supported by hundreds of riders who do not belong to any organization. The chief objection to the law is that it imposes a needless tax upon cyclists, when those who have cheerfully complied with the law find lamp of little practical benefit. Lamps are doubtless a necessity in the crowded thoroughfares of New York, but Omaha streets are rarely crowded at night. To the wheelman in Omaha, a thousand may be seen in New York. Yet New York does not go so far as Omaha in enforcing penalties for violation. In New York the authorities do not arrest the rider and haul him off to jail because he did not have a lighted lamp. They merely confiscate the wheel and send it to the station. It is supposed to be worth the fine. That act at least serves the ends of the law. But in Omaha capture of the offending wheel does not satisfy the officers of the law. They must arrest the rider. No matter what the rider is, or where or whether the offense was unavoidable, he or she is subjected to the pain and shame of arrest and sent to the station. Doubtless the police are allowed some latitude in enforcing the law, but the rider who is arrested and fined is not satisfied when the rider can show they did not purposely violate the law. The effect of it, however, is the reverse of what its promoters expected. Several thousand lamps were disposed of, but the sale of wheels diminished. And the number of riders is growing beautifully less at night. The bother of caring for lamps and the risk of arrest in case of accident is more than the pleasure-seeking riders care for, consequently most of them stay at home or seek other diversions.

The controversy concerning whether a woman should be seated on the front or rear of a tandem has been progressing for many years. The question is being usually whether the forward or rearward position was most dangerous, where the most work had to do, where the most weight should be and the matter of competent steering. It seems to be undetermined whether the rider should sit before or behind in most cases, but one man has decided it entirely by his own satisfaction with

out reference to any of the points in the dispute that have been recognized by all others. In his own words, this is why he rides on the front of his tandem with his wife behind:

"On the front seat of a tandem a woman looks prettier. She is the first thing you see as you approach. You can take in her complexion, hat and all her fixings. If she wants to flirt with the men she passes the fellow on the rear seat is helpless. If the looks of those who pass indicate that she has smiled upon them he can have his own opinion, but if he says a word he makes a fool of himself. If the woman is behind him, he has a 100 per cent better chance of knowing what she is doing. Then he sees the others first and may, by turning around, catch her in a flirtation. If she is behind that way, I have a girl that I have been waiting for a couple of years to marry, hoping she will get over her propensity for flirting. So long as she sits in front of me on the tandem I am worried. Now I sit in front and I know more of what she is doing. It has subdued her a great deal. Whether he is married or single, every man should sit on the front of a tandem. I don't bother about the steering, weight or other things. The woman who sits in front can flirt all she chooses without being caught and she should not be there."

MEN OF THE ROD AND GUN

Hastings Holds the Banner Meet of the Season and Entertains the Shooters Royally. Friday saw the close of the most successful shoot in the west this year, and that was the three-day shoot at Hastings, September 19, 20 and 21. The affair was in charge of W. S. Duer and E. B. Bernhardt and they deserve great praise for the sportsmanlike manner in which everything was conducted. The Omaha contingent consisted of Charlie Currier, Billie Brewer, Will Townsend, R. R. Kimball, Frank Crabb, T. F. Beard, C. R. Andrews, Plumber Reid, Frank Parmelee and others.

The Dupont Gun club had a tent of their own on the ground and as may be easily imagined this was the most popular place of all on the entire grounds. A goodly supply of all kinds of refreshments was always on hand. There were in attendance at this shoot many of the crack men of the team were Capt. Sedam and Daniels of Denver, Charlie Young, Cleveland, Rogers and other notable. To show how good the picked team was they killed ninety-seven birds out of the first 100.

The Omaha men as a whole did very well and all came back with from \$25 to \$75 more in their pockets than they had when they left. Parmelee had third high average Friday and Frank Crabb won high average and big money on the second day, winning \$82. The Omaha squad made the record on both sets of traps, killing seventy-four out of seventy-five on first and ninety-four out of 100 on second.

Will Townsend of the Townsend Wheel club offered \$50 to any squad making a score of ninety-eight out of 100, but this he did not have to pay, as the score was not made. The Omaha shots who have returned from Hastings have nothing but words of praise for the royal manner in which they were entertained.

Charlie Young, probably the best target shot in the world, will arrive in Omaha today, and will attend the regular meeting of the Dupont Gun club. At the Hastings meet Young missed only two birds out of the 300 he shot at.

The Winchester Gun club will hold its regular shoot this week at the grounds across the river and a large attendance will be on hand to learn how it was done at Hastings.

Theodore Wiseman and Christ Oleson went to Ewing last week for chickens. Oleson has returned and says they got all the chickens they wanted.

George Scribner, Charles Rogers and Sandy Griswold were at Gothenburg last Sunday on a chicken hunt, but did not have much luck.

Frank Burkley and Stockton Heth are planning a raid on the chickens of the prairies this week and with old Sport are anticipating a good time and good shooting. They say that the pleasure in life is in anticipation and memory, so they are having half of their fun now.



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BRITISH ROUGH RIDERS IN SOUTH AFRICA—A GROUP OF PRIVATEES.

He does this partly from force of habit, just as he aims at the white breast of a duck, though it is an unwritten order in Boer warfare to kill the officers or chiefs, if possible. When the captain or commander sees an officer it is his plan to select about six of the best marksmen available to fire simultaneously at him. The higher the rank the better. The man so carefully selected may be regarded as doomed. At Mar-Juba hill the Boers did not even spare General Sir George Colley.

To an American these methods may seem cold-blooded and cruel, but it must be remembered that the Transvaal dreaded black English as they dreaded white. The English are the enemy of the Boer, and always refer to the British soldiers as Ruineks, or "red necks."

There are two explanations of this scrupulousness. One is that when the English came to the cape an old Dutchman noticed that when John Bull got mad and swelled and grow red about the neck. In the Transvaal they say the name arose when British dragoons were quartered there, from the red coat collars which made the uniform conspicuous.

Defiance that Leads to Death. For the English the Boers have framed this particular def: "If you will have our country, take it, but it shall be over our bodies and the ash of our property and goods." Paul Kruger himself is the author of the catch phrase which was embodied in the celebrated third proclamation made in 1881 when the British were hectoring the old farmers. It was no idle threat seen these long-legged leather-beaten men get together at a rally has realized immediately that they would never give up their country until all were wiped out, men, women and children.

The commandant general of the Boer forces is Piet Joubert, a man of 63 years old, with a string of military victories extending over one-half a century. In the history of the Transvaal he has borne almost as important a part as Paul Kruger. Until this present agitation there existed a strong rivalry between the two. For three successive times Kruger was elected president by a small majority over Joubert, and since boyhood they have contested neck and neck for various honors. When it comes to fighting the English, however, they are united.

example of more advanced nations. The first step was to erect forts at Johannesburg and Pretoria. The former now rejoices under the brow of strong fortifications. There are six forts altogether and they command a broad expanse of country. In these he has placed long range rifle guns of French and German patterns and numerous quick-firing guns. He has filled four war-houses with arms and made secret tunnels underneath the gold fields so that the town of Johannesburg can be destroyed by one train of powder, for the motto of the Boers is the same as that of William of Prague: "Rather a ruined country than no country."

Pretoria is guarded by four forts, one at each of the four corners of the town. Heavy guns of the Krupp make are installed here under the direction of German, Holland and French officers. Men have been drilled to train these guns effectively and the town is supplied with provisions to withstand a long siege.

The latter method has been the favorite one spoken of by the English to conquer the Boers. The Transvaal is such a poor country that wild animals cannot exist in some parts of it, and the British experts have always said that they starve the burghers would be the easiest way of subduing them. Kruger has provided against this in some measure by building a great granary where meats and canned food are stored in large quantities. He has little fear of such a war, however, and to the writer recently said that the English might "build a wall around them high as Jericho," and then he and his people could live comfortably for twenty years.

The old Boers do not worry much about

NATIVES AT A COACHING OFFICE—A NATIVE UPRISING IS GREATLY FEARED.

being starved out, for a Boer can do more work on less food than any other human being if he wants to. He is accustomed to living on the veldt for weeks with no nourishment but a long strip of dried meal-cake, however, and to the writer recently said that the English might "build a wall around them high as Jericho," and then he and his people could live comfortably for twenty years.

Always Ready for War. In spite of the Boers being sadly scattered all over the Transvaal, the whole nation can be mobilized in two or three days, a proceeding which probably cannot be duplicated by any other country. This is possible owing to the Boer's constant equipment in light marching order. The moment that Kruger decides to declare war Joubert either telegraphs or sends relays of messengers to each commandant. This officer promptly notifies the several field cornets of his district and the latter either dispatch their assistants, who gallop here or there on the veldt surrounding the town, or else make bonfires at night and pillars of smoke by day, the prearranged signals for war.

attitude the blacks would take in case of an English-Boer war, but both Queen Victoria and Oom Paul dread an uprising in this quarter.

As a fighter the Boer is a mixture of strategy and religion. Before going into battle each captain leads his troops in prayer, for the Boer children are brought up on the Heidelberg catechism, and the first thing they learn is the answer to the question: "What is the only comfort in life and in death?" The army then joins in singing "Old Hundred," "every man," as an Englishman described it, "trying to outdo the other in slowness of time, each note being prolonged for at least six beats." The religion injunctions are not forgotten on the march and travel on the Sabbath day is tabooed as much as possible. Oom Paul's preeminence in the nation is due to his piety as much as anything else, and when he was commandant general and military leader he could get a following by raising his hand. The Boers are almost as great fanatics in war as the Mohammedans, though their natural strategy prevents them from recklessly destroying themselves. Kruger rose to fame by taking hold of a campaign against the natives in which his predecessor had failed. This man did not belong to the Dopper church, which is the ultra-orthodox branch of the Dutch Reformed that is in the ascendant there. The Boers said the Lord was against the other leader on account of his heresy.

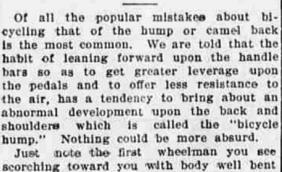
A Boer military camp, however, is not entirely devoid of recreation. Shooting at a mark is always in order and the young men indulge in a rough sport that, sometimes proves serious. They call it "throwing the ox-hide" and it consists in tossing

Don't Fear a Long Campaign.

A long campaign is no hardship to the Boers. When the alarm comes the women of the house, and nearly every Boer has a family of ten, twelve or eighteen, of whom two-thirds are girls, get him half a dozen pieces of fat long and supply of coffee and tobacco, while the boys saddle and equip the best horse in the stable. Of course every lad who can stand a march also goes to the front, for the Boer children are taught to use a rifle at an early age, and but

Five battles has Joubert had with British troops. The number of troops engaged on each side at these various engagements have varied between 250 and 1,500. At Lain's Nek the English lost 190, the Boers 24; at Logogo the British loss was 142, the Boers 17; at Maluba Hill the British loss was 236, the Boers 5; at Bronkhorst Spruit, the British lost 120, the Boers 1, and in the Jameson raid 100 reformers fell, while the Boers lost 2. Thus while the English troops have

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