

BOER TRUST AND FAITH.

Nothing has been more extraordinary in connection with the South African war than the lack of news that has come from the Boer side. Especially is this true about the men who are leading the armies of the republic.

Of President Kruger and General Joubert—who, by the way, is of the same age as Lord Roberts, 68—of the Transvaal, and of President Steyn of the Orange Free State, much has been printed, but there are descriptions of the personality of the leaders.

The Post-Dispatch a few days ago contained an interview with Philip Louster Wessels of Bloemfontein, who comes to the United States by the advice of his government to do what he can for the republic. His brother is the chairman of the war council of the Orange Free State. Another brother is in the Volksraad. Still another has been in command of the Boer forces that besieged Kimberley.

Naturally it would be supposed that Mr. Wessels would know all about the general's commanding the troops. He was asked about them.

"I don't know any of the Boer generals except my brother," said Mr. Wessels, simply. "I know little of his qualifications as a soldier. I have seen Cronje, but that is all. I do not know Prinsloo, who is the commandant of my own district, except to bow to him. It is not my business. My brother, C. H. Wessels, would know all about them. It is part of his duty. The men are selected to command because they have fitness for it. We have confidence

would have the world believe. It is the business of our military men to know, to study. But the real reason for our successes can, I think, above all things, be attributed to our hard common sense. That is the one thing that distinguishes us, I think—our good, common sense."

"Whence did Cronje and Joubert gain their military genius?" Mr. Wessels was asked.

"From the soil," he replied. "But that is not wholly true. Ancestry has something to do with it. These men are descended from those who fought in the army of William the Silent, that real man who loved liberty, that wonderful general who in all his years of fighting won but one real victory on the field, yet in the end compelled Louis XIV to sue for peace, although the armies of the grand monarch defeated those of William the Silent on every battlefield.

From the Huguenots they gained, too, a lofty devotion to principle and military genius as well, for in the long struggle in France the Huguenots were wondrous fighters and they won in the end.

Of General Botha, the one who survives and the abler one, almost nothing has been published. It is set forth that General Lucas Meyer is a famous warrior in campaigns against the natives, that General Schalk-Burger is a self-taught man distinguished for his calm logic and his skill as an orator. In fact, it is significant that all the Boer information about their leaders has to do



TYPICAL BOER SOLDIERS WITH MAUSER RIFLES.

In the men who select them. Therefore we do not bother our heads about them. In the Orange Free State we have had no war since I was a little fellow.

"We never hear stories of personal daring bold. When our people go to fight they are expected to be victorious, and victory means many personal sacrifices and gallant deeds.

"No reports are made commending the deeds of leaders in action. Why should there be? Each man will do the best he can, and why should one be praised because his opportunity is greater than another's?"

"When a soldier in our army shows capacity he is rapidly promoted. There are leaders who are not known beyond the little circle in which they live. If one commandant shows that he is not equal to his task there are always others to take his place.

"When war was declared in the Orange Free State I hastened to get my 60 rounds of cartridges, place a good horse in my stable and secure the 40 days' rations the law requires. I have never been in a war. I do not know anything about actual warfare, but I was sure that the men over me would know. I have hunted game, big and little, all my life. I have tilled the soil and herded cattle. You see my hands are big from hard work. Now I am a merchant in Bloemfontein, where I sell American agricultural machinery; but I am still a farmer, and had it been thought I could best serve my people so, I should have become a soldier."

Nothing could be more simple than the talk and manner of Mr. Wessels. He is about 40 years old and was educated in Cape Town. He speaks English with hardly a suggestion of an accent. He is particularly well dressed. His father was one of the largest landowners in the Free State. He himself has large interests in land and in mines.

When Mr. Wessels was asked if there were many foreigners in the Boer army and if they were the strategists who had won so many victories, he smiled, saying:

"There are few foreigners in the Boer army, especially among the officers. We want our own people to lead us. Many of us come from an old fighting stock. We are not so ignorant as England

with their civic positions and distinction.

Notwithstanding the reports that have come from South Africa about the disaffection of the Free States it does not appear that they have ever lost hope. These reports are, of course, from British sources and are admittedly gleaned from Boer refugees and some from prisoners.

It is only by pure accident that an insight is gained into the real character of these Boer leaders. Among the prisoners taken at Belmont were Commander Serfontein, an Orange Free State burgher, who was captured because he refused to leave his 17-year-old son, who was dangerously wounded. When he was questioned about the outcome of the war he was silent for a while and then he said:

"Whether you are right or we are right I do not know. You are strong, but to be strong is of no matter. Only God rules. He will decide it."

It is this firm, sweet, simple faith of an honest man that has made the Boers great.

CONSENT BY WIRE.

Jeffersonville, Ind.—Ernest Mills works in a powder mill at King's Mills, O. He wanted to marry Bertie Drake, but her father objected on the ground that he might be blown up. So they eloped to this city. The bridegroom is simply old enough to assume the responsibilities of married life, but he could find no one to make affidavit that his fiancée was of legal age. The telegraph wire was put into use and Mills asked Mr. Drake for his daughter's hand by that method. A reply came back, giving the desired consent, and begging the two to hurry home for forgiveness.

The bride's father is a wealthy business man, and when the girl told her mother she was going to elope with Mills, Mrs. Drake reported that she would tell her father, and hurried to the store for that purpose. Drake was busy with a customer and the lovers managed to catch a train before he was informed. The sole objection to Mills was that he was working in the powder mill and might leave his wife a widow at any time.

INDIANS' GHOST DANCE.

Wichita, Kan.—(Special.)—The Delaware Indians, 500 in number, are dancing the ghost dance on their reservation near Chelsea, I. T. They are led in this once famous dance by Wasashe, an old medicine man, who was a right-hand man to Wovoka, the famous Piute Indian prophet and founder of the ghost-dance religion.

The Delawares are firm believers in the ghost-dance doctrine and that is their reason for the present dance. Recently their chief, Rihard Adams, went to Washington to see about getting a bill through congress allowing the Delawares to sell out their land in Indian Territory and leave for some country where the white man could not control them. Before leaving he told the Indians that it might be well for them to indulge in a ghost dance, as it might help his cause along. The Delawares, being very superstitious people, at once assembled for the dance and prayed the great spirit to help their chief on his mission. The great spirit must have been with the Indians to some extent, because on Tuesday last a bill allowing the Indians to dispose of their land was introduced in the lower house and it will undoubtedly pass.

When the Indians heard this news they danced harder than ever. A private letter, dated Chelsea, I. T., tells the story of this dance. It says: "All of the white people in the vicinity of the Indian dancing grounds have been forced to pack up and leave, not on account of the danger, but the noise made by the dancers is worse than a dozen bands of warriors. The air is filled with mournful songs of the dancers from early morning till after midnight. The dancers refuse to talk to any one, but the squaws say that the dancers are expecting help from the great spirit soon. The burden of their prayers is to be delivered from the control of the white man. These Delaware

Indians are connected with the Cherokees in land rights and were once quite a rich people, but a greater part of their wealth has been swindled away. Their agent says no trouble need be feared from this dance, as the Indians are only fulfilling a duty.

The Delaware dancing grounds, where the Indians are now assembled, is in the midst of a deep wood, and for many years past has been the scene of revelry for these same redskins. Ten years ago, when Wovoka, the Piute prophet, started the Indian world by announcing he had been up in the sky visiting the great spirit, and came back with the ghost-dance doctrine, he was received with great gusto upon these same grounds by the Delawares. Here they learned the dance and its teachings.

The doctrine taught the Indians was that our present world was old and worn out and the great spirit was tired of it, especially the white men. So he was going to send a flood of mud and destroy all the whites. Then all the dead Indians and dead buffalo would be recalled to earth and the Indians could live as of old. This was to be brought about by dancing.

The ghost dance itself differed little from any other Indian dance, except that after six days of dancing the participants were to bathe in running water. They also wore specially designed shirts while in the dance. When a dancer falls from exhaustion no one can go near him, as he is then supposed to be in the spirit land. The squaws are allowed to dance the same as bucks, this seldom being allowed in other Indian dances.

Wasashe, the leader of the dance now going on, told the Indian agent they did not expect the end of the world to come, as was expected before. But they do expect the great white father to buy them another reservation far from the white man's domain.

MAN WHO HAS 12,000 DUCKS.

Fort Dodge, Ia., March 26.—The largest flock of domestic ducks in the world is at present eating 100 bushels of corn daily on the Loomis duck farm near this city. There are 12,000 of them. A. R. Loomis, whose extensive operations have earned for him the sobriquet of "the poultry king," has recently made a successful experiment that promises to revolutionize one branch of the poultry business. Large dealers whose energies are devoted to supplying experienced great difficulty in preserving the plumpness of fowls when removed into new surroundings. The refusal of the birds to eat results not only in shrinkage, affecting an immediate money loss, but makes them less marketable. After twenty years' experience in feeding fowls in large numbers for market, Mr. Loomis has discovered that the ducks are the only ones that can be fed in large numbers with success.

"I have tried fattening every kind of poultry," said Mr. Loomis, "and I have never had any success with anything but ducks. Just before the holidays I tried to fatten 5,000 chickens. They were bought from farmers in all parts of the country. We put them into a large inclosure and tempted them with feed by the barrel. It did not require long to see that they were shrinking every day. I soon found that they would not eat food that was greedily devoured while on the farm. Most of their time was spent on the roosts. The hens would not come down and the roosters were engaged in a constant fight. The result was I lost a nice bunch of money on them. Then I tried turkeys. One big gobbler that weighed 16 pounds when placed in the yards

fell away to 32 pounds after being fed three days. With several thousands of pounds of live turkeys at 7 cents per pound and shrinking one pound each day, it does not require much figuring to show the financial futility of feeding them in large numbers for the market. All my experiments with ducks have proved different. They don't roost and seem to adjust themselves to new conditions very readily. We started with a flock of 5,000, which, proving a success was gradually increased to its present dimensions of 12,000, that are now almost ready for the market.

As Mr. Loomis does not breed fowls, only feeding them for the market, he does not require very extensive quarters for his duck farm. A two-acre tract of ground surrounded by sheds and houses in the form of a hollow square constitutes the field of his operations. In this inclosure 12,000 ducks quack, eat corn and grow fat for dinner tables in Philadelphia, Boston and New York. Troughs of shelled corn and water are placed at frequent intervals in the yard and two men are kept constantly engaged in supplying the wants of the noisy fowls. One hundred bushels of shelled corn are required each day for their feeding. The large flock proves a good weather prophet and on any evening previous to a change in the temperature the quack of the ducks is deafening and can be heard a mile away. When the ducks have accumulated sufficient fat to make them marketable sixty men are employed in slaughtering and dressing them for market. Some of the men become very expert in this work, one man holding a record of 182 fowls in ten hours, or one every four minutes.

GUARDS FOR ROYALTY.

The monarchs of Europe are not guarded from harm by the showy soldiers in shiny tin cuirasses who disport themselves about palace anterooms. The actual seamy work is done by the plainly clad, unostentatious secret police. The degree to which police protection is indispensable may be gained from the fact that President Carnot's assassination occurred immediately after Prime Minister Dupuy had disbanded the Brigade d'Elysee, or Presidential Police.

Scarcely a week passes during Queen Victoria's sojourns at Windsor or Osborne that some crazy person does not endeavor to obtain an interview either by calling at the palace or by attempting to go waylay the sovereign when she is out driving. Those of the male sex usually declare that they are in love with the queen or profess that they are secretly married to her, while the females allege that they are either the daughters or sisters of her majesty, or else married to the Prince of Wales.

Every time that Queen Victoria plans to leave her residence at Windsor, Osborne, Balmoral or Buckingham palace for her afternoon drive the intention is communicated to the chief inspector some hours beforehand by the eunuch on duty, who announces the route that her majesty proposes to take. At certain points along the way policemen in plain clothes are stationed.

An inspector of the London police is in charge of the men appointed to guard the Prince of Wales. King Humbert of Italy is guarded by one policeman. This official is a sergeant-major of the carabinieri, composed

of picked soldiers and ex-non-commissioned officers of the army. He is a man of herculean proportions and of tried resources. Moreover, as he is a native of Piedmont, he is blindly devoted to his king. He never leaves his side by day, and at night sleeps across the threshold of the room occupied by his master.

Napoleon III. had a bodyguard each of whom was a Corsican, their chief, Griscelli by name, having saved the emperor's life several times. When Count Camerote, a cousin of Napoleon, was assassinated in the Tuileries, Griscelli disguised himself and followed the supposed murderer, Kambo, to London, where Kambo was established.

The same fate overtook Silvano di Peruggio, who had organized a plan for wrecking the imperial train near Biarritz. He fell a victim to the Corsican's dagger at Bordeaux, whither Griscelli had tracked him. Two Mazzinian conspirators, Rastini and Galli, were likewise stabbed by Griscelli.

One evening when Napoleon was calling at the Countess de Castiglione's suburban residence a man crept into the room, knife in hand, and threw himself upon the emperor. General Fleury, Napoleon's aide-de-camp, pinioned his arms until Griscelli rushed into the boudoir and cut short the existence of the conspirator. Documents of a compromising character were found and the result was the temporary exile of the countess.

The man who does not know is always readiest to tell.

WHERE POPULISTS WILL MEET.



SIoux FALLS AUDITORIUM.

Sioux Falls, S. D., March 26.—The Sioux Falls auditorium has a seating capacity of about 5,000. Had it not been for this building, which is the largest of the kind in South Dakota, Sioux Falls would not have been able to capture the national convention of the populist party, which will be held May 2. On May 23 the republicans of South Dakota will also hold their state convention in Sioux Falls for the purpose

of nominating a congressional and state ticket and selecting delegates to the republican national convention at Philadelphia. The auditorium is a new building, which is the largest of the kind in South Dakota, Sioux Falls would not have been able to capture the national convention of the populist party, which will be held May 2. On May 23 the republicans of South Dakota will also hold their state convention in Sioux Falls for the purpose of nominating a congressional and state ticket and selecting delegates to the republican national convention at Philadelphia. The auditorium is a new building, which is the largest of the kind in South Dakota, Sioux Falls would not have been able to capture the national convention of the populist party, which will be held May 2. On May 23 the republicans of South Dakota will also hold their state convention in Sioux Falls for the purpose

SIGNALING BY SUN'S RAYS.

Heliography, a system of signaling by means of the sun's rays, which has obtained largely in military operations in South Africa, is by no means a new invention of the military expert, although it is only within recent years that the system has been perfected.

There was as early as the eleventh century a system of heliography in vogue in Algiers, where there was an old tower on the summit of which was an apparatus of mirrors for communicating rapidly with all the towns in the then empire.

There are several patents out, but the two favored by the British army are the Begbie field heliostat and the Mance heliograph, which only differ in details.

In India, on the Himalayas, a five-inch mirror has carried a distance of sixty miles, while in California, where the atmosphere is perhaps purer and clearer than it is in any other part of the world, a perfect instrument has flashed messages at a distance of 150 miles.

Mance's instrument was perfected in 1875, and was experimentally employed by the government of India in 1877-78, and by the British government in the Afghan and Zulu campaigns of 1879 and 1880.

Among the few engineer officers who had time to study the heliograph and its workings in the short period preceding the outbreak of hostilities with the Zulus, was Colonel Haynes, who saved an important situation by means of the new or perfected system of sun signaling.

The story is interesting in view of the present working of the heliograph on territory not far removed from that now occupied by the present opposing armies in South Africa.

Colonel Pearson entered Etshowe at the end of January, 1880; he fortified the place, and could not get out again on account of being surrounded by the enemy, who was present without in great numbers. Two months had gone by; still he was not relieved. Young Mr. Haynes suggested that they might signal to the beleaguered force from where they were, namely, Fort Pearson, some forty miles away, a suggestion, although novel to the commanders, which was readily agreed to. Unfortunately there was no heliograph instrument, so the young officer borrowed a common bedroom mirror belonging to Private Grundy of the Scots Guard.

With this cracked glass Lieutenant Haynes flashed across the forty miles of rough, broken country reassuring messages to the imprisoned Pearson, one of whose officers luckily was able to decipher the signals. But it was a dreadful struggle at first, for no recognition was made for days by the beleaguered garrison, a fact which dropped the spirits of the young officer, and which confirmed the military pessimists

in their opinion that heliography was a failure.

Captain Wynne, R. E., on Colonel Pearson's staff, was the officer who first perceived the flashes, for he made the following record: "Heliograph signals observed in the direction of the Tugela at about 2 p. m. No message made out."

One can understand the excitement among the troops when, on the following day they again saw the sun flashing its rays across the open country, and in such a form as to confirm the general opinion that it was the heliograph at work; but the signs were indistinct. Haynes had nothing better than a broken bedroom mirror. Captain Wynne made the next entry: "Signaling from the Tugela again observed, and some words decipherable, of which the import seemed to be that a relieving force was being sent from Fort Pearson, and that on its approach Colonel Pearson was to make a sortie."

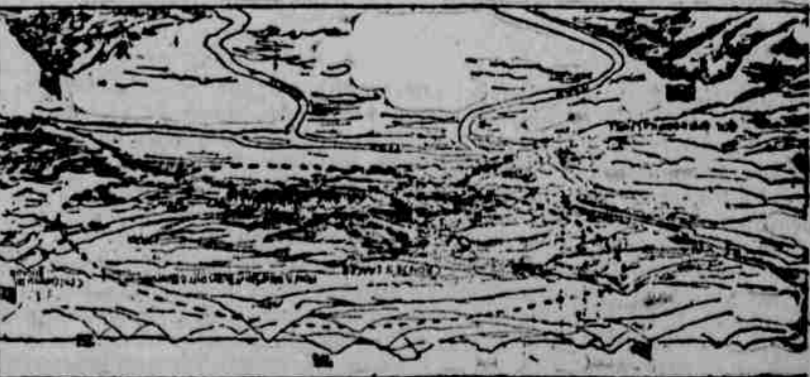
It was clear now to everybody that the base was signaling to them. How were they to reply? There was no heliograph there. Captain Wynne endeavored to effect communication by means of a large glass raised above the ground revolving on horizontal pivots, which, being brought alternately to a horizontal and vertical position in front of the place to be signaled to, should produce dashes and dots on the system of the heliograph. But so soon as the ingenious contrivance finished a flash of bad weather set in, most adverse to heliographic signaling. After the lapse of a few days we find Captain Wynne recording in his official journal: "We signaled two or three messages to Tugela, and signaling was kept up for two or three hours" but with what success of failure is not stated.

At any rate the little force at Etshowe was relieved in the early days of April, the gallant Wynne being killed in the sortie. The mirror used by Lieutenant Haynes for advising Etshowe of the approach of the relieving force, may be seen at the Royal United Service Institution in London.

Khaki fabrics are among the popular materials for spring wear, and it will be found necessary in every instance to relieve this ugly sand color with white or colored silk or satin. The form of trimming designated as slashing has already proved effective in giving needed color relief to khaki costumes.

Philadelphia Press: McJigger—Too bad that the Ladysmith garrison should have been relieved at such an inopportune time. Thinsumbob—Inopportune? What are you talking about? McJigger—Well, just think. They've got a long March before them, haven't they?

WHERE CRONJE SURRENDERED.



WHERE CRONJE WAS BESIEGED AND SURRENDERED.

(The dots indicate the extent of the Boers' position when first attacked. The British forces occupied the surrounding kopjes, from which their artillery could command the Boers' laager. The Modder river flows through the center of Cronje's camp.)