

AT the *Council Chamber, Whitehall*, the 13th day of *November*, 1901.

PRESENT,

Archbishop of Canterbury.
Lord Robertson.
Mr. Secretary Ritchie.
Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane.

WHEREAS in the Act of Uniformity, which established the Liturgy of the Church of England, provision is made for such alterations in the Prayers for the Royal Family as from time to time shall become necessary, and be directed by lawful authority; it is, thereupon, this day ordered in Council, that in the Morning and Evening Prayers, in the Litany, and in all other parts of the Public Service, as well in the occasional offices as in the Book of Common Prayer, where the Royal Family is appointed to be particularly prayed for, the following form and order shall be observed:—

“Our Gracious Queen Alexandra, George Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family.”

And it is further ordered, that no edition of the Common Prayer be from henceforth printed but with this amendment; and that in the meantime, and until copies of such edition may be had, all Parsons, Vicars, and Curates within this Realm do (for the preventing of mistakes), with the pen, correct and amend all such prayers in their Church Books, according to the foregoing direction: And for the better notice hereof, that this Order be forthwith printed and published, and sent to the several parishes; and that the Right Reverend the Bishops do take care that obedience be paid to the same accordingly.

A. W. Fitz Roy.

War Office, November 15th, 1901.

THE following Despatches have been received from Lord Kitchener, G.C.B., &c., Commanding-in-Chief, South Africa:—

From Lord Kitchener to the Under Secretary of State for War, War Office, London, S.W.

Pretoria,

8th August, 1901.

Sir,

1. IN continuation of my Despatch, dated 8th July, 1901, I have the honour to submit an account of the operations carried out by the troops under my command since that date.

The Blockhouse System.

2. The month of July has been marked by a wide development of our system of blockhouse defence. Experience had shown that the line of defensible posts, extending across the Orange River Colony, from Jacobsdal to Ladybrand, constituted a considerable obstacle to the free movement of the enemy's roving bands, and that the gradual completion of chains of blockhouses placed at intervals of a mile, sometimes less, along the Transvaal and Orange River Colony railways, had obtained for our traffic a comparative security which it had not previously enjoyed.

Arrangements were therefore made about the middle of the month for the commencement of a continuous line of blockhouses following the course of the river from Aliwal North to Bethulie, and running thence along the railway through Stormberg, Rosmead, Naauwpoort Junction and De Aar to Kimberley. This work, which will absorb about six battalions as its

garrison, has made good progress, and will shortly, I hope, be completed.

Another line, with Frederikstad as its starting point, was commenced on 8th July by two battalions under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Mackenzie, Suffolk Regiment. It runs northward to the source of the Mooi River, whence it will be extended to Breedt's Nek in the Magaliesberg hills. From Breedt's Nek other posts will be established along the Magaliesberg, which will connect with our garrison at Commando Nek.

To the east of the Pretoria-Vereeniging line, the South African Constabulary, under Lieutenant-Colonel Pilkington, have been employed in the construction of a line of posts running from Eerste Fabriken, by Springs and Heidelberg, to the Vaal River.

These blockhouse lines give promise of being of much future assistance to us. Not only do they protect our communications and render inter-communication difficult between the different portions of the Boer forces, but they serve as barriers against which our mobile columns are able to drive bands of the enemy and force them to surrender.

A concerted movement, with this idea in view, was arranged for the middle of July, its object being the clearance of the country between the Vaal and Modder Rivers by the convergence of a number of columns, acting together and driving the enemy southward on to the line of posts garrisoned by the South African Constabulary, along the Modder River between Bloemfontein and Jacobsdal. It produced the most satisfactory results, but the stages by which the troops so employed reached their assigned stations, and the preliminary operations, must be dealt with by successive reference to the work of the different columns.

Operations in the Southern portion of Orange River Colony.

3. Two forces were operating in the southern portion of the Orange River Colony in the second week of July, those of Major-Generals Bruce Hamilton and C. Knox.

Of Major-General Bruce Hamilton's troops, two columns, under Lieutenant-Colonels Williams and Dawkins, occupied the Jacobsdal and Luckhoff districts; two, under Colonel Rochfort and Lieutenant-Colonel Du Moulin, were moving by Wepener on Edeburg, which they reached on the 17th of the month. After that date Major-General Bruce Hamilton disposed all his columns to the west of the railway to act as a support to the barrier of police posts on the Modder River, and to be in readiness for any possible movement of the enemy to the south when pressed by our contemplated sweep from the Vaal River.

The section to the east of Emmanus was allotted to Colonel Rochfort, who also occupied Tafel Kop and Zwartkoppies to the south-east and south-west, respectively, of Petrusburg. Further west, Colonel Williams' troops were posted at Blaauwbank and Wegdraai Drifts on the Riet River, whilst the line of the Orange River between Norval's Pont and Ramah was watched by the columns under Lieutenant-Colonels Du Moulin and Dawkins.

On the 27th July Colonel Rochfort learned that a party of burghers under Commandant Myburg, said to be destined for Cape Colony, was encamped on the banks of the Riet River between Dassiespoort and Jagersfontein Drift. Calling upon Lieutenant-Colonel Lowry Cole, who was under his orders in the vicinity, to