



The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1901.

Council Chamber, Whitehall, November 29, 1901.

CORONATION OF THEIR MAJESTIES.

COURT OF CLAIMS.

THE Right Honourable the Commissioners appointed by His Majesty for the purpose will meet at the Council Office, Whitehall, on Wednesday, the 4th day of December next, at eleven o'clock of the forenoon, to hear and determine Claims of Services to be performed at the time of the ensuing Coronation (except those dispensed with by His Majesty's Royal Proclamation of the 26th day of June last), and of fees to be received for the same.

The Commissioners are required by the Proclamation to exclude from their consideration such claims as may be submitted to them in respect of rights or services connected with the parts of the Ceremonial heretofore performed in Westminster Hall and with the Procession, the Ceremony being confined to Westminster Abbey.

War Office, December 3, 1901.

THE following Despatches have been recently received from General Lord Kitchener, G.C.B., &c., Commanding-in-Chief, South Africa. From Lord Kitchener to the Secretary of State for War, London, S.W.

Pretoria,

SIR,

October 8th, 1901.

1. In continuation of my despatch, dated 8th September, 1901, I have the honour to report that during the past month there has been a general recrudescence of activity on the part of the enemy, which has made itself felt more particularly in the extreme south-east portions of the Transvaal. The immediate cause of this was, undoubtedly, the necessity felt by the Boer leaders to tide over the 15th September, the date fixed by the Proclamation of 7th August as the limit of time within which by voluntarily surrendering, the leaders might avoid certain penalties threatened by that Proclamation. In this they have succeeded. There has been no general surrender, but the device to which the Commandant-General resorted for turning the thoughts of his burghers in another direction has probably cost him and his cause more heavily than a simple pursuance of the usual evasive tactics would have entailed.

Operations on the Natal Frontier.

2. I alluded in my last despatch to the indications of a concentration in the Ermelo district, and to rumours of designs on Natal, and

to the preliminary steps taken to meet this contingency.

On the 4th September, Lieut.-General the Hon. N. G. Lyttelton assumed command in Natal, in succession to Lieut.-General Sir H. Hildyard, who proceeded home on leave of absence. General Hildyard arrived from England at the commencement of the war in command of the 2nd Brigade, and has since then continued, without interruption, to exercise command in various positions of great responsibility. Much as I regret the loss of his valuable services, I am glad that he should now be able to enjoy a well-earned rest.

General Lyttelton having assumed command, at once found it necessary to turn his attention to the enemy in the Vryheid District. The commandos which had assembled in the Ermelo District early in the month, gradually worked south by Piet Retief and Paul Pieters Burg, whilst others joined them *en route*, but it was not until the 18th September that Major Gough's reconnaissance made the situation quite clear.

For some days previous to this, mist and rain had concealed the enemy's movements from our patrols sent out from Utrecht and Vryheid, and the natives, fearing the penalty the Boers now so ruthlessly exact from them for any assistance given us, had kept to their kraals. On the 15th September Major Gough's Mounted Infantry moved out from Dundee, with Lieut.-Colonel Stewart in command of the Johannesburg Mounted Rifles, to De Jager's Drift. Colonel Pulteney's troops were at Volksrust, and Lieut.-Colonel Garratt with his column, having passed through Wakkerstroom, was moving on Utrecht.

On the 17th September, Lieut.-Colonel Stewart and Major Gough decided to push on towards the Bloed River to gain touch with the enemy, reported to be in the vicinity of Scheeper's Nek. Major Gough marched about an hour in advance of Lieut.-Colonel Stewart, and as he neared the river sent back word asking Lieut.-Colonel Stewart to remain for the present near Rooi Kop, in readiness to support him should he hear his guns in action. Half-an-hour later Lieut.-Colonel Stewart observed Major Gough's force galloping in the direction of Bloed River Port, and he immediately pressed forward in support with his mounted men. While thus advancing, Lieut.-Colonel Stewart was met by a messenger, who informed him that Major Gough had met with a serious reverse in front, and feeling it imperative to afford protection to his own guns at Rooi Kop, as well as to Major Gough's