

Rinderpest is still raging, but the process of inoculation and the care taken of uninfected animals have combined to prevent the movements of our troops from being seriously interfered with by the difficulty of meeting transport requirements. This successful coping with the disease has surprised the old inhabitants of the country to whom rinderpest and wet weather have usually meant the cessation of all operations dependent on ox transport.

Unlike the horses, the cattle captured from the enemy are mostly in good condition, and form a substantial contribution to our transport and commissariat. I do not, therefore, anticipate any marked decrease of efficiency in our transport, although at the present moment it is attacked by the greatest danger incident to its existence in this or any other country.

The health of the troops is most satisfactory, and is only equalled by their spirit. There is of course a certain wastage due to sickness, but it is far less than might be expected from the arduous labour entailed by the constant pursuit of a very mobile and scattered enemy, frequently

at night and in a season of heavy rains. Despite the fatigues of incessant marching, the harassing anxieties of night outpost work in exposed and isolated positions, and the discomfort of wet bivouacs, the cheerfulness and energy of our men is always evident, and there is a quiet determination on the part of all ranks to relax no effort until the campaign has been brought to a successful issue.

The hardening of newly-arrived drafts is most noticeable, and in those men who have been out since the commencement of the campaign the country possesses a fine body of soldiers well skilled in the difficult warfare in which they are engaged, and capable of any efforts which they may be called upon to make.

I beg to enclose lists of Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men whose good services I desire to bring to favourable notice in connection with recent operations.

I have, &c.

KITCHENER, General,  
Commanding-in-Chief in South Africa.