

War Office,

29th July, 1902.

The following Despatch has been received from Lord Kitchener, G.C.B., &c., Commanding-in-Chief, South Africa:—

From Lord Kitchener to the Secretary of State for War.

Cape Town,

SIR, 23rd June, 1902.

I have the honour to submit a final despatch which covers the period between the signature of the terms of peace at Pretoria and my departure from Cape Town. In this I have endeavoured to acknowledge some small portion of the kind assistance or loyal service rendered me by civilians and soldiers during my command in South Africa.

2. In my last despatch, dated 1st June, I had the pleasure of reporting the conclusion of peace. Directly the terms were signed I appointed the following three Peace Commissioners to receive the surrenders in the territories of the new Colonies:—

General Bruce Hamilton, for the Eastern Transvaal.

General W. Kitchener, for the Western Transvaal.

General Elliot, for the Orange River Colony.

I also directed General French to make the necessary arrangements for the same purpose in the Cape Colony.

3. The reports of General French and the three Peace Commissioners are herewith submitted, and it will, I think, be evident from their perusal that the Boer leaders concerned played their part with loyalty and in a thoroughly straightforward manner, whilst the burghers and rebels on commando also accepted the situation in a manly spirit which augurs well for the future of South Africa. So strongly did I feel this that I sent the following telegram to Generals Louis Botha, De la Rey, and Christian de Wet:—

“Now that the surrender of the arms in the hands of the burghers in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony has been completed, I desire to place on record my high appreciation of the unflagging energy and unflinching tact with which you have facilitated the work of my Commissioners. I recognize how much it is due to your exertions that the burghers have displayed everywhere such a loyal spirit in accepting the change of Government that has taken place, and I can inform you that the manner in which the burghers have come in has greatly pleased His Majesty the King, and deeply impressed the British people, who are heartily anxious to welcome them as fellow citizens. I feel confident that a new era of complete reconciliation between all races has now dawned in South Africa.”

The total numbers of the surrenders of armed burghers in the Transvaal were 11,166, in the Orange River Colony 6,455, and in the Cape Colony 3,635. Total, 21,256.

4. I well understand that the accompanying list, which is in continuation of the other lists submitted periodically by me, of Departmental, Staff, and Regimental Officers, who have in my opinion rendered exceptionally good service during the campaign, is incomplete, and that, notwithstanding all my care, there must necessarily be a proportion of officers omitted, who have rendered equal, or even better, service than

those who have been mentioned. This, however, is the fortune of war, and will, I am sure, be well understood by the Army I have been so proud to command.

In the first place, I wish to convey to his Excellency the High Commissioner my cordial thanks for the past, and my best wishes for the future. In the many difficult situations in which I have had to co-operate with Lord Milner, it has been the greatest relief to me to feel that I could always rely upon his unflinching sympathy and ungrudging assistance.

I find it difficult in the short space at my disposal to acknowledge the deep obligation of the Army in South Africa to the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Cape Colony, and Natal. I will only say here that no request of mine was ever refused by any of these Governments, and that their consideration and generosity were only equalled by the character and quality of the troops they sent to South Africa, or raised in that country.

I am greatly indebted to Admiral Moore, the Commander of His Majesty's Naval Forces in South African waters, for the kind manner in which he has always endeavoured to meet the requirements of the Army in the field.

I have already, in a farewell order, expressed to Major-General Baden-Powell my deep appreciation of the services rendered by the South African Constabulary, but I am glad to have this opportunity to again testify to the good work rendered by this fine body of men.

Sir Richard Solomon, K.C.M.G., K.C., Legal Adviser, has been much more than a legal adviser to me. His quickness and his ability, joined to his intimate knowledge of South Africa and its people, have always been fully and loyally placed at my disposal.

I beg to take this opportunity of acknowledging with gratitude the obligations under which the Army in South Africa has been placed by the ungrudging assistance given me by Mr. T. R. Price, C.M.G., and the staff of the Cape Government Railway, as well as by Sir David Hunter, K.C.M.G., and the staff of the Natal Government Railway.

Major-General (local Lieutenant-General) Sir I. S. M. Hamilton, K.C.B., D.S.O. At much personal inconvenience, Lord Roberts lent me his Military Secretary, Sir Ian Hamilton, as my Chief of Staff. His high soldierly qualities are already well known, and his reputation does not require to be established now. I am much indebted to him for his able and constant support to me as Chief of Staff, also for the marked skill and self-reliance he showed later, when directing operations in the Western Transvaal.

Brevet Colonel H. I. W. Hamilton, A.D.C., D.S.O., Military Secretary, has displayed most untiring zeal in the performance of his duties. His reliability, accuracy, and unflinching attention to business are deserving of my special recognition.

Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel W. N. Congreve, V.C., Rifle Brigade, has been my private secretary since I took over the chief command; during that period he has dealt with many troublesome matters to my complete satisfaction.

Major-General W. F. Kelly, K.C.B., has an unrivalled knowledge of regulation and precedent, whereby his advice has been of great value to me in a time when my mind was perforce occupied with important operations.