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## DEWET WAS A DOUBLE TRAITOR

A Blue Book was issued the other day containing papers dealing with the rebellion in South Africa. The second part of a volume of seventy-eight pages set forth the efforts of the government to restore peace without bloodshed and, subsequently, to induce the rebels in the field to surrender. No attempt, however, is made to describe the military measures by means of which the rebellion was brought to an end.

A mass of material in the hands of the government dealing with the outbreak of the rebellion could not be used, as it forms important evidence in the cases of individuals on trial, or awaiting trial.

In the case of certain German agents investigations are still being pursued, and it would be premature to disclose the information collected.

One enlightening quotation from a report headed "Who is to Blame?" runs:

"There is ample reason for believing that the inaction of the government (this was after De Wet had refused a conference), arising out of its anxiety to avoid bloodshed, had been interpreted by Generals De Wet and Beyers as a sign of weakness, and that the earnest efforts to induce them to confer with President Steyn had strengthened them in their belief that the government was afraid to strike. Both of them deliberately refused to avail themselves of the various opportunities offered them to consider the possibility of a peaceful solution, and both of them, while professing their anxiety for a peaceful solution, were simultaneously taking action which had inevitably led to collisions with government forces. Both of them profited by the action of the government in ordering its forces to make no offensive movements.

"In the case of De Wet this disingenuousness was particularly glaring. He not only deceived President Steyn with his professions of readiness to come to a conference, but at the same time grossly misled his own officers, who had unanimously expressed the wish that he should go to the conference and were under the impression that he was going to do so. He alone, of all the rebel officers in the Free State, appears to have wanted war. To his officers he professed readiness to go to a conference, while secretly ordering military movements at a distance and sending false reports of rebel successes to encourage further rebellion.

"General Smuts held the view that unless De Wet was convinced by force he would not listen to argument and, after the fight at Mushroom Valley, in which General Botha's force inflicted severe losses on the rebels, General Smuts appeared to have gauged the situation correctly as De Wet was then willing to come to President Steyn and negotiate for peace."

With regard to Lieut. Col. Maritz, says the report, it is certain that since the conclusion of the Anglo-Boer war he had brooded over some schemes for re-establishing a republic in South Africa. He hoped to do so with German help and had apparently prepared for the day when Germany and England should be at war with each other in order to put his project into execution.

From the moment war was declared between England and Germany Maritz was in close and constant touch with the German authorities across the border. To remove the scruples of his followers he made free with the names of prominent South Africans who were known or supposed to be in opposition to the government and in this way succeeded in seducing a large number of men from their allegiance to the Union.

Maritz had made it clear that he would never attack German South-west Africa, and he was worried over the affair at Schuitdrift, when some Afrikaners had fired on a German police patrol, which had attempted their arrest. During the latter part of August German patrols sought these men on Union territory, and it was unthinkable that the Germans would have ventured upon such a course unless they were satisfied with the attitude of Maritz, who later came out into open rebellion against the British.

The rest of the Blue Book adds little to the story of the rebellion as already known.

## SWISS HOTEL KEEPERS APPEAL TO GOVERNMENT

(From The Economist.)

The Swiss hotel industry is suffering severely from the almost total suspension of tourist traffic and has had to apply for relief to the federal government. The capital invested in it probably exceeds forty million pounds; this is largely borrowed on mortgage from the banks or otherwise, and of late years the profits have frequently been sunk in extensions. The hotel keepers now ask for the suspension of repayments, and of the right to foreclose, until a year after the conclusion of peace, and also for the postponement of the payment of one year's interest, or possibly two years', until two years after that event. A conference between their representatives and the federal department of justice has resulted in the suggestion of an arrange-

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ment under which claims for relief are to be arbitrated upon by courts composed of representatives of the hotel industry and the financial world which are to decide whether the difficulty in any given case is due solely to the war, or has been partly set up by injudicious extensions or competition, and some security for eventual payments will be offered to the creditors by a prohibition of all extensions or new buildings for several years to come. Nothing, however, has yet been settled and further developments will be awaited with curiosity.

Corporal George Sears, who was stationed in Fredericton for three years with H. Company, R.C.R., and is now with that unit in Bermuda. The fourth son of Mrs. Sears is only eleven and he is already inuring of his mother when he "will be able to go to the front."

Extracts from the letter of Driver Leonard Sears, who is a member of a real fighting family, on May 5 follow.

"A few lines to let you know we are among the casualties yet, though we have had some narrow escapes. Stanley had one of his horses shot, but so far we have managed to dodge the Jack Johnsons ourselves."

"I guess you have read in the papers what the Canadians have been doing, and I can assure you they do not exaggerate one bit. It was the hottest drive I ever made. The weather has been lovely for the past week or two. I will try to write again soon. Tell Dot (his sister) I will write to her as soon as possible. Love to the kiddies and all at home."

Italy's capture of Ala was quite a la mode.

It isn't discussion that civilization wants of Germany, but justice.

## FIGHTING FAMILY AT CENTREVILLE

(Hartland Observer)

Mrs. Alice A. Sears of Centreville has received an interesting letter from her son, Driver Leonard Sears, who is with the Divisional Ammunition Column, 2nd Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, on the firing line in Flanders.

Mrs. Sears has two sons at the front, Driver Stanley Sears being the

## The Daughter of David Kerr

By HARRY KING TOOTLE



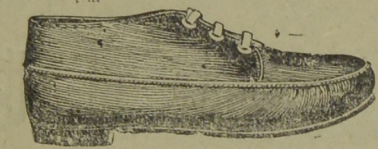
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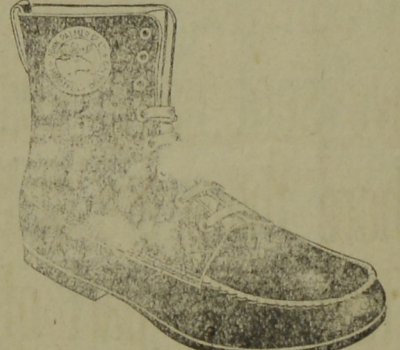
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