

manner in which they had fought and the consideration and kindness wherewith they had treated the British prisoners, including the wounded. He concluded with warm wishes for their future.

The generals feelingly acknowledged the King's gracious sentiments.

They afterwards lunched with Lord Kitchener. They were cheered during the journey from Southampton to London.

They informed the newspaper representatives that they were delighted and much struck with the King's reception of them. The King, on the deck of the Royal yacht, went towards the gangway on their arrival and after the introduction shook hands with each. Later on he introduced them to the Queen and Princess Victoria.

The Boer leaders during the voyage did not receive an official invitation to the naval review.

They explained on board the Nigeria that urgent family reasons called them to London, wishing to meet their relatives, but they forthwith arranged to return on Sunday and see the King. After the audience they were conducted, at the King's request, through the lines of warships.

The "Times" says that while it is right to show respect to a brave enemy, and reasonable to accept their assurances of fidelity, the exuberance of emotion shown by London crowds was much in excess of what was appropriate and unworthy of the spirit in which the struggle was conducted on both sides.

Large crowds in the pouring rain cheered the departing Boer Generals when they left for Holland.

They authorised a statement that they were going to the Continent to greet Kruger and Steyn, and would return at an early date to transact business.

They acknowledged the many invitations and kind messages of welcome they had received in London, and stated that the only reason they were absent from the naval review was that they felt it was improper to appear in the Royal presence until they had replaced the garments which they had worn aboard the Saxon, with more suitable costumes.

They were enthusiastic in their praise of the King's kindness.

Botha declared that he would keep his own counsel as interviewers had so often misconstrued him.

Wolmarans, Dr. Leyds, and the municipal authorities welcomed the Boer generals on their arrival at Rotterdam.

All the vessels in the harbour, including the British, were dressed with flags, and great public enthusiasm was shown. A similar reception took place at the Hague, crowds in the streets cheering loudly.

The Boer generals had three hours' interview with Kruger at Utrecht.

He closely questioned them as to the attitude of the burghers under the new regime, and expressed himself disappointed at their replies, and said the members of the local committee hoped the Boer republics would soon be re-established. The generals ignored the remark. The extremists in Holland are irritated at their attitude. The generals have abandoned their tour through Holland.

De Wet has completed a history of the war. Botha and De la Rey are writing the preface.

The "Standard's" Brussels correspondent states that Fischer, Wessels and Wolmarans intend to take the oath of allegiance and apply for permission to return to South Africa.

Kruger is bitterly disappointed at the generals' determination to loyally adhere to the peace terms.

Botha declares that it is the burghers' duty to respect the laws and become faithful subjects of the King.

De Wet is pressing Leyds for documentary proof of the alleged promise of M. Delcasse, Minister for Foreign Affairs, to intervene prior to the issue of the Boer ultimatum.

There are indications that the Boer colony is deserting Brussels for Dresden.

The Boer generals and a great number of the public were present at the laying of the late General Lu-

cas Meyer's body in a temporary vault in the Ixelles Cemetery, Brussels.

THE PREMIERS IN ENGLAND.

The "Times" advises Sir E. Barton to take a larger view of the problems of Australian politics, instancing the growing discontent in Queensland with the policy and conduct of the Federal Government.

Mr. Seddon, speaking at Leeds, complained of the heavy dues charged for the warehousing of wool in London, and suggested the warehousing of samples near the points of consumption.

THE NAVAL REVIEW.

Prior to the dispersal of the warships the King, on the Royal yacht, escorted by 40 torpedo-boats, the Alberta and other yachts, traversed the lines eastwards and anchored at St. Helens. A gale was raging at the time and the weather was misty, with occasional torrents of rain. The fleet then steamed seaward in two columns. The foreign warships present paraded before the King, saluting and manning yards as they passed. The King's parting message to the fleet was: "A magnificent sight. Splendid order kept."

THE SHAH.

The Prince of Wales, Lord Roberts and high functionaries of State officially welcomed the Shah of Persia, who was magnificently dressed. He wore a diamond in the centre of a black fez, three emeralds on each shoulder epaulette, a gold-jewelled chain over the shoulder like a sash and a heavily-jewelled sword belt and scimitar. He was accompanied by a brilliant suite. A guard of honour, consisting of the 1st Life Guards, escorted the Shah to Marlborough House, and troops lined the route. The crowds gave the Eastern potentate an enthusiastic reception, and the Shah was greatly pleased. The Prince of Wales in the evening represented the King at a State banquet at Buckingham Palace, given in the Shah's honour. There were 60 guests.

The Shah of Persia held a reception of British Ministers and foreign diplomatists, and subsequently, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and Prince Arthur of Connaught, attended the Empire Theatre, a detachment of Household Cavalry escorting the party.

The Shah visited the King on board the Royal yacht in the Solent and had a two hours' interview. He received the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

A gunner, while firing the Shah's salute on board the warship Victory, was killed, the charge exploding prematurely.

The Shah of Persia has visited Westminster Abbey, Maxim's works and the Hippodrome. The Shah is an object of intense interest to the Londoners.

The Shah of Persia was present at a review of artillery at Woolwich. He also inspected the arsenal, and was greatly impressed.

The Shah visited Windsor and placed a magnificent wreath on Queen Victoria's tomb. Later on he attended the Crystal Palace, where a record exhibition of fireworks was held, seventy thousand spectators being present.

THE AUSTRALIAN DROUGHT OVER.

Relief has at last come to a large portion of the drought-stricken areas.

Useful rains have fallen in the north-western districts and along the Queensland border, and lighter rains over Riverina and the coastal districts.

At Bourke over an inch and a-half was registered, and at many stations over the Darling River country equally good records are reported, while it is still raining.

The good news was received with much rejoicing in the city. In the Assembly the Premier, in referring to the break up of the drought, said the House would join with him in expressing devout thankfulness to the Almighty for the rainfall, which meant the saving of much wealth and the alleviation of much suffering.

Despite the rain, which excepting in scattered areas is far short of requirements, the outlook is exceedingly gloomy, and worse times, with great shortage of stock, are predicted on all hands.

As a sample of the hardships of the stock owners, one station alone spent £50,000 during the last three months to keep the sheep alive. The fodder imported into New South Wales, not including vast quantities which came direct over the border from Victoria, and South Australia, since the commencement of the year, is valued at over a million sterling. Lately the rate has been £50,000 a week. The Sydney water supply question is becoming daily more acute, and the authorities are adopting more stringent measures to keep down the consumption.

The Federal Government having refused to suspend the fodder duties, and the other State Premiers not being favourable to the suspension, the Premier of New South Wales states that he is opposed to the New South Wales Government accepting the responsibility. He, however, offers the services of an experienced commercial man who will purchase fodder for the pastoralists in the best market. The Government will charter steamers for the carriage of all the fodder required without charging any commission. The Premier's offer means that stock owners will get fodder at practically cost price. He estimates that at least £100,000 worth of fodder is required weekly.

The movement in favour of the suspension of duties or concessions to assist in the import of fodder is again being vigorously pressed in all parts of the State.

The bot-fly has made its appearance in the Murrumburrah district, and is causing alarm, in view of its possible recrudescence.

A MELBOURNE TRAGEDY.

A man named Tiersler has confessed to the murder of Sargal, a farmer at Dandenong, who last Sunday week was found dead at the bottom of a well. Tiersler alleged that he had illicit relations with Mrs Sargal for the past twelve months. She pestered him into killing her husband, constantly declaring that her life was miserable with him. She arranged with Tiersler to come on the night of the murder, and showed a light in the window when her husband was asleep.

He was admitted to the bedroom, and she stood at the door watching while he beat the man to death in his sleep.

She then assisted to throw the body into a well, cleaned up the blood, and concocted a story of suicide.

She gave Tiersler £2 when leaving, and arranged that he should return to live with her.

ALPINE FATALITIES.

An unprecedented number of fatalities have occurred on the Alps this season. The victims were tourists of various nationalities, and they were mostly accompanied by guides.

Three more accidents to tourists have occurred in the Alps, with two fatalities.

Two Englishmen, brothers, who left to climb the Wetterhorn, in the Bernese Alps (over 12,000 feet in height), are missing.

Nearly 40 Alpine fatalities have occurred this season. The two Englishmen reported as missing at the Wetterhorn were killed by lightning, as were also their two guides.

The two Englishmen, brothers, killed on the Alps were named Eronon. One was a London curate and the other a Government factory inspector.

Details to hand state that while they were away climbing the Wetterhorn a terrific storm occurred on the Tuesday night. On Thursday, as they did not return, all the guides and climbers at Grindelwald, including another brother of the two missing men, formed search parties.

They discovered the bodies of the curate and his guide at the summit of the mountain.

The storm carried the other two over a precipice.

THE DRAYTON GRANGE.

The chief officer of the Drayton Grange gave evidence to the effect that the troopers prevented him putting up berths intended for the sick, seized the timber, and threatened to "blanket" him. He had the greatest difficulty in getting them to clean their quarters, which were sometimes not touched for days. The commanding officer's aid had to be obtained. There was a great lack of discipline. The men used filthy and abusive language to the ship's and their own officers.

The chief steward's accounts disclosed a heavy liquor consumption on the part of the officers.

At the Drayton Grange Inquiry Captain Bennett, the master, was examined. He said he did not know the exact number on board the troopship. Approximately they were paid for 1940 men and 41 officers. He believed there were a number of stowaways. He considered there was ample sleeping, lavine and lavatory accommodation and ventilation. The men insisted on closing the ports at night against the rules. He attributed a large amount of the sickness to the uncleanly habits of a number of the men. They maliciously destroyed the shower baths and electric lamps. The troops half the time were in a state of semi-mutiny, and were a most insubordinate lot. The officers and everybody else had the utmost difficulty in handling them. He believed that had the officers gone to the extreme and arrested some there would have been open mutiny. These remarks applied to the great majority. There was a lot of drinking on board. Some of the officers were guilty of excess in this direction. He mentioned that the New Zealand troops taken to the Cape in the vessel had the same hammocks, space and messing provision as on the present voyage.

The second officer (Mr Blay) deposed that there was a large amount of drunkenness and gambling. The latter was openly permitted. He gave evidence similar to the captain's in reference to the vessel not being overcrowded and to the dirty habits and insubordination of a number of the men. He considered that if the officers had exercised more authority early in the voyage things would have gone much more orderly, and they would not have had so much trouble. The sickness was just one of those epidemics which will break out among a large body of men.

The third officer said he had sailed in vessels carrying New Zealand troops. They had not more room in proportion, but there was discipline, and consequently no trouble. He asserted there was much laxity on the part of the military officers and a lot of drunkenness amongst the men.

Surgeon-Captain Fullerton said it never struck him that the vessel was particularly dirty, though it was not a clean ship. The men were not a very clean lot. During the voyage between six and seven hundred were on the hands of the doctors. He considered Dr. Shields took too many duties upon himself. He declined the offers of the other doctors to relieve him. He did not think that any good would have been done by landing the sick at Albany.

Colonel Lyster, being recalled, said the men made every effort daily to keep the decks clean. He formed the opinion that Dr. Shields was nervous and unable to meet the extraordinary condition of affairs. He had the same opinion about the captain of the steamer. He hurried away from Durban before his time. Witness had no time to go into affairs, and only realised the crowd when he got to sea. The shortage of drugs was not reported to him till a couple of days before reaching Albany.

Lieutenant-Colonel Carrington, commanding the Third Bushmen, in his evidence, said the conduct of his men on board was excellent. It was absolutely impossible to carry out the regulations owing to want of deck space. Nothing could possibly be better than the discipline. Dr. Shields was incapable of expressing an opinion as to discipline. The drunkenness was largely caused by the ship's people supplying liquor. After the