

Colony, moving from Luckhoff towards Faure-smith, and then north-west by Koffyfontein to Modder River Station on the Kimberley line. In the first week of November, Colonel Henry marched north, in conjunction with the Kimberley column and the South African Constabulary, to undertake a series of fresh operations to the east of Boshof. A simultaneous advance is being made by the Constabulary posts from the Modder to a general line Boshof—Bultfontein.

8. The operations carried out in Cape Colony during the past month by the columns under the orders of Lieut.-General French have resulted in the expulsion of the raiding bands from the central districts of the Colony, thus setting free a considerable body of troops, which will now be utilized in dealing vigorously with the enemy in the south-western and north-eastern areas.

On the 11th October Commandant Scheepers was taken by a patrol of the 10th Hussars, under Captain Shearman, at Koppies Kraal, 6 miles south of Blood River Station, where he had been left by his men too ill to proceed further. He was succeeded in his command by Commandant Pypers, who at once turned eastwards with the commando, and on the 16th effected a junction with Smuts and Bouwers to the north of Willowmore. Their combined force then almost immediately moved in a south-westerly direction across the Komanassie Mountains into the country between Willowmore and Oudtshoorn.

From the vicinity of Oudtshoorn, Smuts, Bouwers, and Pypers were chased in a north-westerly direction by Colonels Crabbe and Kavanagh, across the main line of railway near Touws River Station on 31st October.

On the 14th October a detachment of Smuts' followers, under Van der Venter, who had been for some time lurking in the Zuurberg, south-west of Somerset East, passed north-east of Pearston, over the Bankberg, and then north-west across the Graaf Reinet—Middelburg line of railway. This party was pursued by Colonel Haig's columns and Lieut.-Colonel Lukin, the latter of whom surprised their laager, 6 miles south-west of New Bethesda, at dawn on 21st October, killing 1 and taking 14 prisoners.

Colonel Scobell's column, after chasing Smuts and Bouwers out of the Aberdeen district, was brought into the railway, and entrained for Victoria Road, where it arrived on the 24th October. Near here Colonel Scobell engaged Van der Venter's party as it escaped westwards over the main line before our pursuing columns.

To the west of Cape Town—De Aar line General French has organized some combined operations with the object of driving the commandoes, under Maritz, Smit, and Theron, into the remote districts beyond Van Rhynsdorp, Calvinia, and Williston. The columns employed in this work have been under Lieut.-Colonels Capper and Wyndham and Captain Wormald, who, on the 25th October reached the line Lambert's Bay—Clanwilliam. From these points the advance is still being continued in a northerly direction.

In the north-eastern area of Cape Colony, Myburg, Fouché, and Wessels, whose combined force is estimated at 500 men, have remained more or less inactive in the triangle Burghersdorp—Dordrecht—Rhodes.

Colonel Monro's column has been employed in covering the construction of a line of blockhouses from Stormberg to Queenstown, and is now about to undertake operations against the enemy in the country to the north of Dordrecht, acting in conjunction with a force, under Colonel

Scobell, which is being concentrated at Stormberg.

Other work carried out in Cape Colony during the month has included the construction of a line of blockhouses from De Aar to Beaufort West, which will greatly add to the security of the main line of railway.

At De Aar General Settle has assumed command in place of Colonel Colin Mackenzie, who has been placed in charge of the late Colonel Benson's column.

The Proclamation of Martial Law at Cape ports, which came into force on 9th October, will, it is anticipated, have a beneficial effect upon the situation in that Colony. Whilst the regulations, agreed upon by the Colonial Government and myself, have been framed with a view to minimizing interference with legitimate trade, and preventing unnecessary inconvenience to the law-abiding portion of the community, adequate powers have at length been secured for the military authorities to enable them to deal with the plots and intrigues of Boer spies and sympathizers at the seaport towns, and to close to them this source of supply of munitions of war.

There is little doubt that the non-existence hitherto of Martial Law on the coast line of Cape Colony has enabled the agents of the enemy to carry on their operations in complete security, and has afforded opportunities for the introduction of foreign recruits, and for frequent intercourse between Europe and the burghers and rebels in the field.

The new regulations which are now being put into force by the General Officer Commanding in Cape Colony, in co-operation with the Colonial authorities, will, no doubt, soon end this state of affairs, and enable us to deal promptly and effectively with any further attempts to utilize the Cape Ports as channels of supply and information for the enemy.

I have, &c.,

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

Army Head-Quarters, South Africa,

SIR, Pretoria, 8th December, 1901.

IN continuation of my despatch dated 8th November, 1901, I have the honour to report that the past month has been marked by a considerable extension of the boundaries of the enclosed areas, and by a proportionate diminution of the enemy's field of operations.

In Cape Colony, General French's troops have made substantial progress, and the work of his columns has resulted in the expulsion of the Boer commandoes from the Midland districts between the Cape Town—De Aar, and East London—Bethulie Railways. The clearance of this central tract will probably have an effect out of proportion to the size of the area reclaimed, and the presence of the small commandoes which still rove about in the north-east and south-west districts of the Colony, is more of a serious inconvenience than a menace or danger of any consequence. They are in an inhospitable country and are being given no rest.

In the Orange River Colony, the country to the west of the railway and south of the Modder remains practically clear, whilst a northward advance of the Constabulary posts from the valley of the Modder towards the line Bultfontein and Boshof, is being carried out simultaneously with the completion of a blockhouse line from Kroonstad to Coal Mine Drift on the Vaal.