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COVENTRY;

G.H.

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A. 73/121

John Kumalo (Roosboom - my interlocutor), Solomon Mbasa and Lasi (Driefontein), Stephen Mini (Edendale), Lu Tayi (Camperdown), Majori (Richmond), Fluwayiti Mhlueli (Springvale), Isaac Mkhize (Cedara), Mhlanimpofee and Nkomo Kayidhli Sutele (Mvoti M. Str - the latter man takes a considerable interest in native affairs). The next Congress will be in January.

73/121

Ladysmith (per Mr. G. H. Coorntry, Field Cornet (since 1881) of Acton Homes) tells me today he does not think Langalibalele instigated boys of his tribe to get guns; but he knew there was a law ^{that} natives could not possess guns without permission & as the 'boys' had brought guns into the Colony & retained them it was tantamount to Langalibalele's having infringed the law & he felt he deserved to be punished under the law. He was afraid therefore of bringing them forth when called up to be registered, because he felt punishment was behind registration which was merely a kind of blind. After he had got on to the hills (mountains) & fired the first shot, he dispatched four messengers to Putile & other chiefs to say hostilities had begun & to ask for their assistance. This assistance ^(which was not) would have been given, C. thinks, but for the fact that the messengers were seen, ^{upon} fired at & killed. C. was with ^{the} Volunteers under Capt. Lucas. Lucas was soon afterwards removed from Ladysmith & so convinced were the volunteers he had done no wrong that they at once handed in their arms & disbanded & no attempt to raise another corps was successful until the Siege of Ladysmith over 25 years later. Coorntry has lived in this Div. so for 31 years. His age is about 62 I should say.

Ladysmith (per Calique) Hears persistent rumours about soldiers going to marry native girls. He spoke to a native from Weenen Div. ^{yesterday} who says that Silwana & Mabizela were recently called up at Nobamba (Weenen) & warned to cause all their girls to be married off as soon as possible for those remaining would be taken by soldiers who would bear more soldiers by the girls they marry. The result of this communication is that many girls are being ^{actually} married off in all directions, reminding one of mbishli ka Imsewu. I came across several girls at this (Royal) Hotel - they slept here - on their way to be married. They come from the direction of Nobamba.

Ladysmith (per Ndakwana. 13.11.00) Natives object to Europeans exacting taxes higher than those claimed by the Inkosi; they, Europeans (farmers) are merely abanumzana and ought to receive rates far lower than those they at present get. There would be no objection to the Inkosi claiming higher taxes, as high as these rents. The land is the Inkosi's and he or she has placed the farmers or Europeans there. They have borrowed ^{the} land, why should mere borrowers, people themselves there on suffe-
-ance claim so exorbitantly; natives are forced to see in this action that Inkosi yenz'uku ebbiza lab'ab'lungu and encourages them to claim high rentals in order to cause the oppressed natives to take up arms. This evidently appears to be the