

148

SAUNDERS, SIR C.R.

264 - 266

264 - 266

SANDERS, SIR C.R.

A. 67/item 12/3-5

Sir C. R. Saunders. 5.12.06.

There is no doubt the Holkcrantz massacre of about 60 Boers, ~~done~~ by Zulus, during the recent Boer war, brought about an immediate change in the mind of the Zulus as regards the British, for though the British had scored victories it had also suffered reverses at the hands of the Boers. The rebellious spirit began to prevail. The Zulus accordingly reasoned thus: If we can so easily defeat the Boers who are almost equally matched with the English, the probabilities are that the latter are not as formidable as our fathers thought they were at the time of the Zulu war.

A Commission was appointed to look into the matter (to clear or whitewash Shepstone), Major Mills being the only commissioner.

From ~~the beginning~~ At the beginning of the war the Zulus were told ~~not~~ that they were in no way concerned in the war going on as it was between two white races and that they should take no part unless actually attacked by the Boers.

Bottomley ~~came~~ came down with the object of harassing the Boers by looting their stock, but instead of looting it himself got Zulus to do so whilst he merely supported them. Zulus succeeded. The Boers came to the Zulus camped at Holkcrantz, whereupon they were set on to and almost every one of them was wiped out, all but one boy.

Papers in this matter are at Eshowe (there were many telegrams). Dinzulu got only 11 or 12 guns which he asked permission to keep. He was never called on to deliver up any guns though such impression seems to have got abroad. At the same time D. said some of his people may have obtained ^{about} guns but he got no more than those ~~not~~ mentioned. Dinzulu's people might have 30 of these guns.

The question as to the Holkcrantz guns ~~as~~ has come up in regard to Steinbank's murder, ~~it~~ there being some evidence to lead to inference that the guns that were used were Holkcrantz ones.

It is the younger generation who have a lower estimation of ~~European~~ English powers than before, the result of the Zulu war still impresses Zulus as to our undoubted superiority.

It would have been no use demanding the guns from Dinzulu or sending to search unless such search would have been successful - Only act when sure of success in finding what one wants.

5-12-06.

C. R. Saunders continued:-

The effect of late Boer war was bad on Natives. The familiar way in which natives were treated by the soldiers (also immorality) engendered feelings of contempt. The Europeans were lessened in the eyes of the natives.

Levies. These did not want to turn out against Matabele on the ground that they had paid their tax and did not see why they should be employed to compel others to pay. I recommended their not being employed at all as ~~as~~ half-hearted.

Poll tax widens the breach between the old man & the youth - It makes youths independent, they say "we have to pay our own taxes, you pay yours".

Nuisance & annoyance to have ^{to go} a pass to ride a horse, especially if a man has (it is generally known to have) several.

Legislation brought suddenly into force without natives knowing anything about it - arose time Responsible Govt was brought in, formerly magistrates were consulted, which shows that formerly there was a system.

The estimation of crops by the police is a ~~so~~ suspicious innovation. ~~promise made at time of faith cause a lot of irritation information at, valueless. The Census regarded as a distinct break of faith~~

At On taking Census people were told that nothing else was intended but to let the King know the number of his subjects, natives said they thought something would follow such action but their fears were allayed. Now the Poll tax is imposed, they regard us as having committed a distinct break of faith as to what took place at time of Census.

All natives of Natal look to Dingane as their head. He is however a creature of circumstances. He ought never to have been restored. The rebellion is the inevitable result.

Mangolwandle a good trump card against Dingane. There should by rights be a civil war between Dingane & Mangolwandle, for succession is not guided by principle of law but by might.

Does not favour general amnesty - all loyal people would feel distrustful.

What led to the breakdown of Rebellion as quickly as it did was because there was no proper organization.

C.R. Saunders (continued).

There is bound to be a war later - last rebellion by no means an end to what we may expect.

There have been continuous breaches of faith since Zulu war, because of change of Policy - Imperial Govt. responsible.

Inquisitions for Govt. to take over land of rebels - lands might be vested in a Trust, this would prevent breach of faith with natives.

All late rebels to be dispersed among different tribes.

The Prime Min. should control Native Affairs. Put the proposed Comt under him.