

suspense, at times hardly daring to hope, at the repeated gallant attempts to bring her relief. It was the stubborn defence of that outwork which stayed the advance against the Capital of your Country."

Colonel Royston, the gallant Commandant of Natal Volunteers, contracted fever during the seige, which, to the profound regret of his fellow-colonists, resulted in his death. The death-roll of our volunteers is a long one, and bears the names of 111 **Natalians** who lost their lives during the Boer campaign. A tablet inscribed with their names has been placed to their memory in the Town Hall of Maritzburg. If sorrow and suffering, and loss of precious lives be the price of Empire in South Africa, then Natal has paid her share in full.

Two New Colonies.

The advancing force under Lord Roberts made a long but necessary halt at Bloemfontein. The men required rest after their arduous marching, and fresh horses had to be obtained for the mounted troops. The railway line behind them, without which the vast army could not be fed, had to be repaired and secured. The Boers had torn up the line in many places, and destroyed bridges and culverts. This enforced delay resulted in the renewed activity of the Boers. Led by **General de Wet**, they ambushed a force under Colonel Broadwood at **Sanna's Post**, and captured 7 guns. Part of General Brabant's Colonial Division was isolated in **Wepener**, on the Basuto border, but succeeded in holding out until relief arrived. The Boer leader, **General Joubert**, died at Pretoria on the 26th March, and was succeeded by **Louis Botha**, as Commandant. He proved himself an able general both at Colenso and elsewhere.

The advance from Bloemfontein began on the 3rd May. Lord Roberts occupied **Kroonstadt** on the 12th without