

Further Adventures Of A Scoundrel: Cornelis W. Van Der Hoogt's Activities During The Second Boer War, 1899-1902

The British conquered the Cape Colony in South Africa in 1806 to protect their sea-route to the east and to extend their authority over much of southern Africa.¹ However, in the latter part of the nineteenth century, with the discovery of gold, the Transvaal rapidly replaced the Cape Colony as the economic center of South Africa.² In the Netherlands, trade companies sprang up like mushrooms to invest in the Transvaal or to trade with it. To my knowledge at least 20 companies in the Netherlands were incorporated for this trade.

With this tremendous economic growth the Transvaal came to be coveted by the British. They had annexed the Province of Natal in 1843, and this annexation led to the Great Trek to the northern part of southern Africa, by the Boers who did not want to accept equality of blacks and whites as the British had demanded.³ Other foreign powers such as France, Germany and Portugal, which also had a foothold in southern Africa,⁴ followed with interest and concern the confrontation between England and the Transvaal. This confrontation led to the First Boer War in 1881 and then to the Second Boer War from 1899 to 1902.

It was during the second Boer War that a rogue named Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt appeared on the scene. During my efforts to trace his life story, it has at times been difficult to separate truth from fiction. He was born in 1857 and was brought up in the city of Kampen in the Netherlands. As an adolescent he went to Amsterdam to live with his brother and worked as a store clerk there. He claimed to have studied at the University of Heidelberg and the Sorbonne,⁵ but I have found no proof of that. In 1892-1893, as readers of this Journal will recall, he became involved in the ill-fated Dutch immigration to Colorado.⁶ About three years later he was appointed secretary of the Maryland Bureau of Immigration, a post that he held till the Republicans were defeated in elections in 1902; he then either resigned or was dismissed.⁷ It was while he held this position that he tried to be appointed a representative of the

Transvaal.

There is no record that Van der Hoogt ever visited South Africa. His first contact with a representative of the Transvaal was when Paul Kruger, who had just been elected President of that country, visited Europe in 1883/84. While in the Netherlands, Kruger stayed for a few days with Van der Hoogt's brother, Martinus, who was pastor of the Christian Reformed Church of Zaandam.⁸ On Easter Sunday, the 13th of April 1884, Kruger worshipped in Martinus' church and briefly addressed the congregation after the evening worship service.⁹ In 1902 Van der Hoogt met Kruger again in Utrecht.¹⁰ On this slender basis, he often boasted that Paul Kruger was his friend. He said this also of William McKinley, the president of the United States, after Van der Hoogt had received his signed photograph.¹¹ It was not unusual for him to write adulatory and complimentary letters to distinguished functionaries in the United States and the Transvaal governments, who sent back courteous letters of acknowledgment. Montagu White, a diplomatic representative of the South African Government in the United States, stated it well in a communication to Willem J. Leyds, the envoy extraordinary of the Transvaal Government¹² at Brussels:

The trouble about Van der Hoogt is that he is so terribly vain. He pulls out letters from officials in order to show me what a big man he is here, and I hear from others that he pulls letters out of his pocket from you ... and from me to show what a tremendous influence he has with the Transvaal authorities. He is a very tiring person on account of his egotism, but otherwise I think him harmless. He has absolutely no influence here, although he is constantly boasting about it.¹³

Van der Hoogt did not hesitate to claim that he was the official representative of the Transvaal in the United States. This claim was vigorously denied by Leyds.¹⁴ When Leyds learned that an announcement

had appeared in a French newspaper that repeated Van der Hoogt's claim, he indicated that there was no truth to this report.¹⁵ The United States had official representation in the Transvaal, but there was no one from the Transvaal Government in the United States. Over a period of several years, Van der Hoogt tried to fill this gap. In a letter to Isaac Van Alphen, the Postmaster-General in Pretoria, Van der Hoogt wrote:

I would be pleased to be your representative in the United States, unless your government prefers to send a South Africaner or a Transvaler to this country. I make myself available in any form to promote your interest out of love and sympathy for your country and people. The costs for your country would be minimal but the benefits would be great.¹⁶

About a year later Van der Hoogt cabled Leyds:

High official Washington advises to cable can you appoint me Consul General or Consular Agent to United States? If so, please send me commission. Seek no honors but will be better empowered representing your Government cause, especially at present.¹⁷

More than three years after Van der Hoogt's first request for diplomatic status, on December 10, 1901, Leyds received an anonymous cable stating: "Washington authorized representative absolute necessity. Why not Van der Hoogt?"¹⁸ This was not the first time that Leyds had received such an anonymous cable.¹⁹ If Van der Hoogt did not send these cables himself, he was certainly behind them. For at every opportunity Van der Hoogt brought up this issue²⁰ with an official of the Transvaal government, claiming that he possessed enthusiasm, warm sympathy and love for the Transvaal and that he would do everything in his power to look after its affairs.²¹ And he felt that if someone else was to be appointed, this would be a great humiliation to his position and influence in Washington.²² He thought nothing of asking for a letter of recommendation from a member of the United States Congress, who wrote that "Van der Hoogt was the best qualified person to represent the interest of the Transvaal because he was so well and favorably known among the high officials in Washington and so well acquainted with many influential senators and congressmen."²³

Leyds cleverly avoided this issue of appointing a Transvaal Consul General to the United States by declaring in a letter to Van der Hoogt that he did not have the authority to do so and that such appointments were made by the Government in Pretoria.²⁴ In fact, however, the Pretoria government was prepared to appoint Van der Hoogt as Consul General to the United States and had asked Leyds to sound out the American government about this appointment.²⁵ But before ever an answer came from the State Department, Leyds cabled his government that Van der Hoogt was unsuitable for the task.²⁶ In a background check he had learned that he was dealing with a dishonest and devious man. In 1889, while Van der Hoogt was codirector of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Handel-Maatschappij in the Netherlands, he had requested a check for a thousand guilders. On the way to the bank he had changed the one into a two. He was forced to resign from the company.²⁷ Leyds was also told that Van der Hoogt had left his personal affairs in a very deplorable state when he left the Netherlands for the United States in September 1892.²⁸ Neeltje, Van der Hoogt's wife, made similar allegations against her husband in Denver, Colorado, in 1893 in divorce proceedings.²⁹ Leyds may also have known that Van der Hoogt embezzled about 12,000 guilders from a trading company and about six months later 6,000 guilders more from the same company³⁰ with the intention, I believe, of paying 18,000 guilders for the shares he had bought in another company.³¹ Shortly after his second embezzlement Van der Hoogt left for the United States via Liverpool, England, traveling first class. When he returned to the Netherlands about a month later, he was brought to trial for this embezzlement, but the court records reveal no decision. Whether Van der Hoogt took the 18,000 guilders with him to the United States, I do not know.

Since Van der Hoogt was not appointed Consul General, he brought about the appointment of General James R. O'Beirne, a member of Congress of the Seventh Congressional District of New York and a prominent person in Republican politics,³² as a representative of the Transvaal government in the United States. O'Beirne was of Irish descent and pro-Boer. Born in Ireland, he came to the United States as a young man. At the outbreak of the civil war he joined the Seventh Regiment, and later on joined the Thirty-Seventh New York Regiment, the Irish Rifles. He took part in the pursuit of John Wilkes Booth who

had assassinated Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865. He was officially in charge of the deathbed of president Lincoln. He died in New York City on February 17, 1917. At the time we are speaking of, despite his distinguished career, he was in financial difficulties. In May 1900 a check of his for \$500 bounced, and about a year later (on February 13, 1901) he was sued by a third party concerning this offense.³³

Van der Hoogt wrote that "he had accidentally bumped into O'Beirne, who was a personal friend of President McKinley."³⁴ He had again written to Van Alphen in Pretoria and had warmly recommended O'Beirne. The State Department had to issue a statement that O'Beirne could not be a Commissioner Extraordinary of the Transvaal Government, for he was an American citizen and this precluded his reception as a diplomatic agent of a foreign power.³⁵

When O'Beirne and Van der Hoogt were not recognized as the official representatives of the Transvaal government, they questioned the status of Leyds, asking whether his "appointment as European ambassador required England's approval."³⁶ Leyds responded that he had not been appointed ambassador but minister plenipotentiary.³⁷ Under the Convention of London (1884), the approval of the Queen was no longer needed for consular appointments by the Transvaal government.³⁸ However, several officials of the United States State Department also questioned Leyd's position, for apparently Joseph Chamberlain, the British Colonial Secretary, had revived this notion that the Queen's approval was needed. Montagu White, the South African diplomat in the United States, was forced to issue a statement that Leyds was fully recognized as minister plenipotentiary by Russia, Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, and Portugal.³⁹ White, who was born in South Africa and had received a British education, had come to the United States from England in January 1900 with specific instructions to request the United States government to use its power to intervene in the war between England and the Transvaal.⁴⁰ A quiet and cautious man and not a forceful speaker, he shunned publicity.⁴¹ He viewed journalists as real pests, and once he closeted himself in a men's room for half an hour just to dodge one of them.⁴² On the other hand, he fully understood the delicacies of diplomacy. He "never sought official accreditation but preferred the greater freedom of action made possible by an

unofficial status."⁴³

O'Beirne and Van der Hoogt had a highly unofficial status, never defined, but they were in fact agents of the Transvaal government. The Transvaal wanted the United States to arbitrate in its war with England but did not want to request this by diplomatic channels.⁴⁴ It used men like Van der Hoogt and O'Beirne to accomplish this. However, neither this approach nor the use of the career diplomat Montagu White had any effect. The unofficial approach was unlikely to work in any case, seeing what kind of men were involved in it.⁴⁵

In several of his letters Leyds expressed the desire to have someone from the Transvaal in the United States to keep watch on Van der Hoogt and O'Beirne's movements, for Leyds' government had provided funds to them to cover their expenses. Leyds did not question their honesty but still wanted to know in what way that money was spent.⁴⁶ (White himself kept copious notes of his expenses, saved his receipts, and on one occasion wrote very apologetically to Leyds that the *déjeuner* he had with the French Ambassador, Jules Cambon, cost about £22.)⁴⁷ Undoubtedly White was instructed to keep an eye on the two agents, for he wrote to Leyds that he had told Van der Hoogt he "would not recommend the payment of any more funds unless I am first consulted as to the expenditure."⁴⁸ In the same letter to Leyds White also noted:

I find that [Van der Hoogt] is continually in New York. He seems to me to have been there three times within the past fortnight, and I do not know how he manages to do this on two hundred pounds a year.⁴⁹

Earlier Van der Hoogt had written to Leyds that "Your Excellency shall not find any traveling costs between Washington and New York, for I have free travel between those two cities."⁵⁰ It was not only White but also a Maryland taxpayer who questioned Van der Hoogt's periodic trips, in a letter sent to **The Baltimore News**.⁵¹ Since Van der Hoogt had an official State position and drew a salary, the taxpayer also asked whether the State was paying Van der Hoogt for the "remarkable energy he spent on behalf of the Boers."⁵² Van der Hoogt answered that his work at the Maryland Bureau of Immigration had not suffered on account of his involvement in the noble struggle of the Boers in South Africa.⁵³

Almost from the beginning the Transvaal government recognized that the appointment of O'Beirne was a very unfortunate one,⁵⁴ and had harmed the Boer cause in the long run.⁵⁵ Since the appointment had not been recognized by the State Department, the Transvaal government could not fire him either.⁵⁶ Van der Hoogt's motivation in pushing O'Beirne into an official position was to profit by O'Beirne's personal friendship with President McKinley in order to enhance his own position in the diplomatic world of Washington. It was known that McKinley in his heart sympathised with the Boers, but he left foreign affairs to his Secretary of State John Milton Hay, who had very pronounced pro-English tendencies.⁵⁷

On several occasions Van der Hoogt and O'Beirne were paid for their services by the Transvaal government.⁵⁸ But when O'Beirne requested \$2,500 as a salary payment in September 1900,⁵⁹ Leyds wrote back that he was at a loss to understand the meaning of the request.⁶⁰ In September 1902, a few months after the end of the Boer War (May 12, 1902), Rooth & Wessels, an accounting firm in Pretoria, forwarded to the Colonial Secretary of the Transvaal an invoice for about £957 from Van der Hoogt for services rendered at the request of Francis W. Reitz, the State Secretary under President Kruger. This request for payment was denied by the colonial secretary.

The amount was endorsed as correct by General Samuel Pearson, who had fought in the Boer War and was living in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He was another of Van der Hoogt's associates in promoting the Boer cause. Both men were behind a scheme of issuing bonds. Pearson could not be trusted with any confidential materials, for at times he would blurt out the most secret and important information in bars, which he apparently often frequented. He also had the habit of speaking ill of government officials connected with the Transvaal.⁶¹

Two years later, in May 1904, both Pearson and Van der Hoogt were arrested for blackmail in New York City and were placed in the Jefferson Market Court Prison,⁶² unable to obtain bail.⁶³ The two had sent threatening letters to Webster Davis, Assistant Secretary of the Interior under the McKinley administration (1896-1901). In one of the four letters a sentence read: "If you don't pay \$25,000, your life will not be worth thirty cents."⁶⁴ Davis had gone to

South Africa to study the situation there and was converted to the Boer cause. Pearson and Van der Hoogt thought that Davis had Boer money in his possession upon his return to the United States,⁶⁵ and they wanted to have a piece of it for services rendered to the Transvaal government. The charges against Pearson and Van der Hoogt were dismissed when Webster Davis failed to appear in court due to illness.⁶⁶

Let me end with an observation from Leyds concerning the character of Van der Hoogt. When Leyds published the correspondence concerning the Second Boer War (1899-1902), he wrote in the preface that Montagu White could have been much shorter with his news but his letters were in every way more believable than those of Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt. In comparison, Van der Hoogt's letters were all about himself and were not always trustworthy because of his credulity.⁶⁷

NOTES

¹ Andrew N. Porter, "British imperial Policy and South Africa 1895-9," in *The South African War. The Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902*. Ed. by Peter Warwick (Burnt Mill, Harlow: Longman Group, 1980), p. 37.

² *Ibid.*

³ M. Bokhorst, "Zuid-Afrika, Unie van," in *Winkler Prins encyclopaedie 18 delen. Zesde geheel nieuwe druk*. Red. van E. de Bruyne, G. B. J. Hilternaam [en] H. R. Hoetink (Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1954), 18: 801.

⁴ Germany had a territorial foothold in South-West Africa (now Namibia), France in Madagascar and Portugal in Mozambique. See Porter, "British imperial policy and South Africa 1895-9," p. 38.

⁵ "Cornelius Vander Hoogt [Obituary]," *The New York Times*, July 8, 1928, p. 21, col. 4.

⁶ *Canadian Journal of Netherlandic Studies*, XII ii (Fall 1991), p. 5-10. See also "The ecclesiastical struggles of the Rilland and Crook Christian Reformed Churches in Colorado in 1893: a history," in *Perspectives on the Christian Reformed Church*. Studies in its history, theology and ecumenicity, presented in honor of John Henry Krooniga at his retirement as President of Calvin Theological

Seminary. Ed. by Peter De Klerk and Richard R. De Ridder (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1983), pp. 73-98; "The boldest of swindles: the Alamosa disaster," *Origins* 4, no. 1 (1986): pp. 22-26; "Dutch immigration to Alamosa in 1892-1893," *The San Luis Valley Historian* 18 no. 1 (1986): pp. 22-36; "Maarten Noordtjij, president van de Nederlandsch-Amerikaansche Land- en Emigratie-Maatschappij," *Jaarboek voor de geschiedenis van de Gereformeerde kerken in Nederland. Jaargang 3*, Red. van Dirk Th. Kuiper, e.a. (Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1988), pp. 65-94; "Maarten Noordtjij, the President of the Holland-American Land- and Immigration-Company," *Nederlands Archief voor Kerkgeschiedenis* 68 (1988): pp. 227-251.

⁷ A letter from Montagu White to Willem J. Leyds dated December 31, 1901. This letter is to be found in the Staats Archief, Pretoria.

⁸ "News item," *De Standard*, 14 April 1884, p. 1, col. 4.

⁹ "Het Transvaalsch Gezantschap in Nederland," *De Standaard*, 16 April 1884, p. 2, col. 3.

¹⁰ "He saw 'Oom' Paul Kruger," *The Sun*, Baltimore, april 27, 1902, p. 8, col. 6.

¹¹ A letter from John Addison porter, Secretary to the President, to Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt dated December 7, 1898. This letter is to be found in the Library of Congress.

¹² Ferguson, *American Diplomacy and the Boer War*, pp. 178-179.

¹³ "A letter from Montagu White to Willem J. Leyds dated February 21, 1900," in *Tweede Verzameling* (Correspondentie 1899-1900), deel 1, tweede band. Red. van Willem Johannes Leyds (Dordrecht: Geuze & Co's Drukkerij, 1930), pp. 435-436.

¹⁴ See Willem J. Leyd's footnote to a letter which Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt had sent to him. This letter is dated December 20, 1899, in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, tweede band, p. 238. Later on Leyds received two inquiries (which he answered in the negative) concerning this question whether Van der Hoogt had been a representative of the Transvaal in the United States, one from Miles C. Hannah in

1920 and the other from Abraham Preyer in 1921. Both men were American citizens living in The Hague, and members of the Board of the Netherlands Chapter of the American Red Cross. Van der Hoogt was also a member of this Board. Hannah's and Preyer's letters are to be found in the Staats Archief, Pretoria.

¹⁵ "A letter from Willem J. Leyds to H. J. Kiewiet de Jonge dated December 9, 1899," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, eerste band, pp. 204-205.

¹⁶ A letter from Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt to Isaac van Alphen dated October 21, 1898; a letter from Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt to Willem J. Leyds dated April 27, 1899. These letters are to be found in the Staats Archief, Pretoria.

¹⁷ "A letter from Willem J. Leyds to Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt dated December 4, 1899," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, eerste band, pp. 185-186.

¹⁸ "An anonymous cable to Willem J. Leyds dated December 10, 1901," in *Vierde Verzameling* (Correspondentie 1900-1902), deel 1, tweede band. Red. van Willem Johannes Leyds (Dordrecht: Geuze & Co's Drukkerij, 1934), p. 480.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ "A letter from Willem J. Leyds to H. P. N. Muller dated November 30, 1899," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, eerste band, pp. 160-161.

²¹ A letter from Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt to Willem J. Leyds dated April 27, 1899. This letter is to be found in the Staats Archief, Pretoria.

²² "A letter from Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt to Willem J. Leyds dated December 13, 1899," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, eerste band, p. 266.

²³ A letter from Felix Branningan to Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt dated November 29, 1899. This letter is to be found in the Staats Archief, Pretoria.

²⁴ "A letter from Willem J. Leyds to Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt dated December 4, 1899," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, eerste band, pp. 185-186.

²⁵ "A cable from the Transvaal Government to Willem

J. Leyds dated September 20, 1899," in *Eenige Correspondentie uit 1899*. Red. van Willem Johannes Leyds (Dordrecht: Geuze, 1919), pp. 169-170.

²⁶ "A cable from Willem J. Leyds to the Transvaal Government dated October 3, 1899," in *Eenige Correspondentie uit 1899*, p. 181.

²⁷ "Buitengewone Algemeene Vergadering van Aandeelhouders der Zuid-Afrikaansche Handel-Maatschappij," *De Wereldburger* 3 (1 november 1889) 465-470, (15 november 1889) 497-505. Copies of the minutes of these two special meetings are in Willem J. Leyds' personal papers in the Staats Archief, Pretoria.

²⁸ A letter from Labouchere Oyens & Co. to Willem J. Leyds dated September 26, 1899. This letter is to be found in the Staats Archief, Pretoria.

²⁹ A document presented in the District Court of Denver is dated December 1, 1893. This document is to be found in the State Archives, Denver, Colorado.

³⁰ Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt embezzled 11,944.56 guilders in May 1891 and 6,000 guilders in December 1891 from the "Mijn- en Landbouw-Maatschappij". The court proceedings are to be found in the Staats Archief, Haarlem.

³¹ Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt had taken out 15 shares at 1,200 guilders a share in the "Mijnbouw Maatschappij 'Odin'". The corporation papers are to be found in the Staats Archief, Haarlem.

³² Ferguson, *American Diplomacy and the Boer War*, p. 179.

³³ In a footnote to a letter from Leyds to O'Beirne dated October 8, 1900, Leyds indicates that he was tipped off about O'Beirne's difficulties. See "Gen O'Beirne examined" *The New York Times*, February 14, 1901, p. 9; "A letter from [Willem J. Leyds] to General James R. O'Beirne in New York, October 8, 1900" in *Derde Verzameling* (Correspondentie 1900), deel 1. Red. van Willem Johannes Leyds (Dordrecht: Geuze & Co's Drukkerij, 1931), p. 313.

³⁴ "A letter from Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt to Willem J. Leyds dated November 15, 1899," in

Tweede Vermameling, deel 1, eerste band, p. 236.

³⁵ A cable from David J. Hill, Acting Secretary of the State Department, to General James R. O'Beirne dated October 5, 1899. This document is to be found in the Staats Archief, Pretoria. See also "Still seeking mediation," *The Sun*, Baltimore, October 18, 1899, p. 2, col. 2: and "Gen[eral] O'Beirne is not accepted," *The New York Times*, October 8, 1899, p. 1.

³⁶ "A cable from James R. O'Beirne and Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt to Willem J. Leyds dated October 10, 1899," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, eerste band, p. 45.

³⁷ "A cable from Willem J. Leyds to James R. O'Beirne and Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt dated October 11, 1899," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, eerste band, p. 45. Plenipotentiary: a person invested with full power to transact any business; esp., a diplomatic official having such power.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ "A letter from Montagu White to Willem J. Leyds dated February 13, 1900," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, tweede deel, pp. 423-424.

⁴⁰ Ferguson, *American Diplomacy and the Boer War*, p. 185.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² "A letter from Montagu White to Willem J. Leyds dated January 17, 1900," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, tweede band, p. 346.

⁴³ Ferguson, *American Diplomacy and the Boer War*, p. 185.

⁴⁴ "A letter from Montagu White to Willem J. Leyds dated February 13, 1900," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, tweede band, p. 422.

⁴⁵ Leyds, "Voorrede," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, eerste band, p. ix.

⁴⁶ "A letter from Willem J. Leyds to H. P. N. Muller dated November 1899," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, eerste band, pp. 160-161.

⁴⁷ A letter from Montagu White to Willem J. Leyds dated March 28, 1901. This letter is to be found in the Staats Archief, Pretoria.

⁴⁸ "A letter from Montagu White to Willem J. Leyds dated February 21, 1900," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, tweede band, p. 435.

⁴⁹ *Ibid*, p. 436.

⁵⁰ "A letter from Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt to Willem J. Leyds dated January 2, 1900," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, tweede band, p. 318.

⁵¹ A State Taxpayer, "To the editor of The News," *The Baltimore News*, November 4, 1899.

⁵² *Ibid*.

⁵³ *Ibid*.

⁵⁴ "A letter from Montagu White to Willem J. Leyds dated February 7, 1900," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, tweede band, p. 399.

⁵⁵ "A letter from Montagu White to Willem J. Leyds dated December 22, 1899," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, eerste band, p. 249.

⁵⁶ "A letter from H. P. H. Muller to Willem J. Leyds dated December 4, 1899," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, eerste band, p. 187.

⁵⁷ "A letter from Montagu White to Willem J. Leyds dated February 7, 1900," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, tweede band, p. 397. Cf. also Ferguson pp. 122-125.

⁵⁸ "A letter from Willem J. Leyds to Francis W. Reitz dated October 6, 1899," in *Eenige Correspondentie uit 1899*, pp. 184-195; "A letter from Willem J. Leyds to H. P. N. Muller dated November 30, 1899," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, eerste band, pp. 160-161; "A letter from Cornelis W. Van der Hoogt to Willem J. Leyds dated December 13, 1899," in *Tweede Verzameling*, deel 1, eerste band, pp. 264-270; and "A letter from Montagu White to Willem J. Leyds, dated March 24, 1900," in *Derde Verzameling*, deel 1, p. 41.

⁵⁹ "A cable from James B. O'Beirne to Willem J.

Leyds dated September 14, 1900," in *Derde Verzameling*, deel 1, p. 300.

⁶⁰ "A letter from Willem J. Leyds to James B. O'Beirne dated October 8, 1900," in *Derde Verzameling*, deel 1, p. 313.

⁶¹ See "A letter from Montagu White to Willem J. Leyds dated December 31, 1901." This letter is to be found in the Staats Archief, Pretoria.

⁶² "Webster Davis accuses a Boer War General, causes arrest of Samuel Pearson on Blackmail charge, Van der Hoogt also held," *The New York Times*, May 18, 1904, p. 3, col. 1.

⁶³ "Davis blackmail letter," *The New York Times*, May 19, 1904, p. 16, col. 6.

⁶⁴ *Ibid*.

⁶⁵ "Webster Davis accuses a Boer War General," *The New York Times*, May 18, 1904, p. 3, col. 1.

⁶⁶ "Boer commissioners discharged," *The New York Times*, June 21, 1904, p. 7, col. 2.

⁶⁷ Willem J. Leyds, "Voorrede," in *Tweede Verzameling*, Deel 1, eerste band, p.x.