

**Cutting from North Devon Gazette**  
**(1 month before sailing to SA – 17 February 1900)**

Mr. Francis Powell Williams, the younger son of the Financial Secretary to the War Office, will sail next month for South Africa as a member of the Corps of Electrical Engineers. This special body, which has never been seen in the field before, was constituted some four years since by the present Secretary of War at the suggestion of the late Mr. Hopkinson, of Manchester, who became its first colonel. Upon that gentleman's death, by accident in the Alps, Colonel Crompton, the head of Crompton's Electrical Works at Chelmsford (from the pupils at which the corps is mainly manned), who had been its honorary colonel, became colonel; and, as he had formerly served in the Royal Engineers, his going out now in command will, in effect, be a return to active service.