

4-10-1900

A FIELD MARSHAL'S BATON.

An unique ceremony takes place in Government House, Pretoria, when the Governor General, Sir Patrick Duncan, presents Field Marshal Smuts with the symbol of his high office on behalf of the King. The staff of the baton is covered with crimson velvet; on the head is the figure of St. George and the Dragon, while the base bears the inscription "From his Majesty King George the Sixth to Field Marshal, the Right Honourable John Christiaan Smuts". A personal letter from the King accompanies the Baton which the Premier reads to the gathering. Few Empire Statesmen have won such universal admiration as this great South African. The exalted rank which has been bestowed upon him is also an honour to South Africa, the welfare of which he has made his life's work.