The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

FORTY SECOND YEAR. THE VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1900 VOLUME XLII—NO. 16

Civil War In Kentucky

Martial Law Proclaimed and Conflict for State Control Imminent.

Republicans Remove Seat of Government to Stronghold in Feud County.

Warrants for Arrest of All Democrat Members—A Death-bed Ceremony.

By Associated Press.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 31.—William Goebel, who lies dying of the bullet wound inflicted yesterday, was shortly before 9 o'clock to-night sworn in as governor of Kentucky, and J. C. W. Beckham a few minutes later took the oath of lieutenant-governor. Bloodshed will attend on the promised attempt to secure the offices they thus nominally assume.

All day long the Democracy has been groping around trying to find some way in which it could seat its leader, Goebel, in the gubernatorial chair. No matter which way the Democrats turn, they are confronted by the same prospect—a line of blue edged with steel, and it was fully understood by both parties that the line and steel were there for business purposes only. There was no bluff, no false alarm about it.

All day through the streets of Frankfort soldiers marched and countermarched. Drills in the street were frequently held, in order that the men might be warmed by exercise after they had remained in the biting wind. Around the penitentiary was a line of troops, in the opera house was a guard, three companies stood at rest in the open space in front of the Capitol hotel, sentries patrolled every side of the building in which ex-Governor Bradley resides, and a detachment of infantry held the court house against the possession of the members of the legislature, with the intention of declaring that not the living William Taylor but the dying William Goebel was the lawful head and chief executive of the commonwealth of Kentucky. It was largely a matter of sentiment with the Democrats that led them to make such desperate efforts to crown their king before he died.

The Republicans laid their plans secretly. They carried them through vigorously and triumphantly. The proclamation declaring that a state of insurrection exists in the state, summoning the legislature to meet at London, Laurel county, and warrants for the arrest of every Democratic member of the legislature were prepared last night. It was the intention of Governor Taylor and his advisers that no meeting of the legislature should be held to-day, even though it proved necessary to arrest and detain in custody all of those who persisted in holding meetings. Once adopted, the policy was carried out to the letter. Compelled to retire from the capitol building, the Democratic members went to the opera house; held back from the opera house, they went to the court house; prevented from entering the court house, they went to the capitol, only to be told that any meeting they might attempt to hold in that building would be suppressed, all found taking part in it would be arrested, and the hotel itself seized by soldiers. It was a hopeless game. The Democrats had no chance to win, and they gave it up. Later in the day officers entered the hotel and told the Democrats that no conference must be held, and they attempted to hold none.

There is much doubt among the members of the legislature as to whether or not they will go to London at all, some of the Republicans left Frankfort during the day declaring that they were going to London, but no Democrats so declared themselves. The words "London, Laurel county," are not words that please Democratic ears. In fact many of them declared that their lives would not be safe after they reached the town. It is a place of about 1,000 inhabitants, situated in what is known as the "feud county." The people of Laurel county are strong for Taylor and against Goebel and all his works.

Adjutant-General Collier declared today that if the Democratic members did not attend the legislative meeting which is called to meet on February 6, he would arrest them individually, provided he received the necessary orders from Governor Taylor, and convey them to London. The Democrats have not said they would not go to London, but their legal advisers have counselled them that Governor Taylor had no right to adjourn the legislature from Frankfort and it is likely the matter will be tested in the courts before any circumstances can arise which would call for the arrest of the members.

The Democrats have not in fact decided what they will do. All day the shadow of death hung over Mr. Goebel at the Capitol hotel. At noon it was declared he could live but a short time and at one o'clock it was said that death was upon him. This evening he called for a clergyman and a clerical friend came in and remained for an hour at his bed-side. The physicians declare that there is nothing that could keep him so long but his wonderful nerve and will power. They give absolutely no hope and say that death cannot be farther away than a few hours.

Frankfort was quiet in the extreme today. There was excitement sufficient for anybody, but not the slightest sign of disorder. Many of the saloons were closed, and the cold wind kept people off the streets.

STORY OF THE ASSASSINATION.

Culmination of a Long and Bitter Feud Over Election of a Governor.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 30.—Details of the shooting of Wm. Goebel, the unsuccessful Democrat candidate for governor in the late election, and who is now contesting the election before the legislature, show that at 11:10 this morning Goebel was passing through the state house yard on his way to the Capitol building, in company with Col. Jack Chinn and Warden Eph. Lilliard, of the Frankfort penitentiary, Goebel being on the right. When the three men were two-thirds of the distance from the street to the Capitol building, a shot was fired from the third storey of the building occupied by the offices of the governor, the secretary of state and other leading officials. The ball struck Mr. Goebel in the side and he instantly dropped to the pavement. Chinn and Lilliard seized him, Chinn saying as he did so: "I guess they've got you, Goebel." "Yes," replied Goebel, "I guess they have got me, for sure."

While Chinn was holding the wounded man, supporting his head in his arms, four more shots were fired at the little party. All of them struck close, making the dust fly from the brick pavement. Neither Chinn nor Lilliard moved until the firing ceased, when Lilliard ran for help.

An examination made by Dr. Hume and several other physicians resulted in the announcement that the wound was not necessarily fatal and that Mr. Goebel had a chance to recover. The ball, it was found, had inflicted a wound which was somewhat of a glancing nature, and had not gone through the lung in a direct line, as Dr. Hume had thought upon the first examination. Had the ball struck the chest one half inch to the right it would have caused certain death.

The house was in session when the shooting occurred, and the senate was to meet within 20 minutes. The capitol building was therefore filled with members of the legislature, and to say that excitement followed is putting it very mildly. From both halls men ran wildly down the steps without hats or coats, and one member of the house came out carrying in his hand a bill on which he had been arguing when the shooting occurred.

By the time the members of the legislature had reached the lower floor, however, Goebel was on his way to the office of Dr. Hume. The members hastily rushed back to their desks, adjourned with scant ceremony, and proceeded down into the street again. In a few minutes crowds were hastening towards the capitol from every direction.

Within three minutes after the shooting a line of men were thrown around the building whence the shots had come. John W. Miles, an aged citizen of Frankfort, was standing at the foot of the stairway leading from the first floor of the office building to the west when a man, evidently a mountaineer, came rushing down the steps. Miles instantly threw his arms around the man's body and held him until help came. Men closed in around the prisoner on every side with drawn revolvers and the slightest attempt at resistance would have resulted in his instant death. He submitted to arrest very quietly, claiming again and again that he had nothing to do with the shooting. He gave his name as Harland Whittaker, and said he had been in the state office building when he heard shots and believing the long predicted battle had come at last, had hastened out to see what was going on. He was searched for arms, and three large revolvers, all fully loaded, were taken from him. None of the cartridges had been exploded and there was no sign of any of the weapons having been in use. He was hurried to the jail, three blocks away, with all possible speed, it being feared that an attempt might be made to lynch him if the crowd should be able to lay hands upon him. He was very quiet and did not lose his composure for an instant, notwithstanding the excitement around him. "I know no more about it than any of you," he said.

The republican officials acted with the greatest promptitude. Adjutant-General Collier at once telephoned to the armory on the hill, where all during the gubernatorial contest the local company of infantry had been held in reserve, and within twenty minutes a company of 30 under command of Capt. Wolcott was drawn up in front of the capitol building. Guards were placed at every gate leading to the capitol grounds and nobody was permitted to enter or leave.

As soon as it had been noised around that Goebel had been shot, members of the legislature made a wild rush for the telegraph offices and filed voluminous messages to their constituents, and within an hour replies began to pour in, the general run of them having one tenor, which was, "We are coming." It was expected that fully five thousand men would arrive in Frankfort during the evening. All of the military strength of the state was to be called out and hurried to Frankfort, it was said.

The Democrats kept exceedingly close watch over the person of J. C. W. Beckham, the contestant for the position of lieutenant-governor. In the event of the death of Goebel, he would be their only hope, and they declared with earnestness that if Goebel should die, there would be no governor but Beckham. He was kept in his room at at Capitol hotel and will be guarded very closely until the trouble is over. He declared that he needed no guard, but the Democrats paid no attention to his remonstrances.

Canadians Make An Advance

Montreal, Jan. 31.—A special cable to the Star from its correspondent, Richmond Smith, dated Belmont, says:

"A strong reconnaissance of 500 Canadians and Australians left for Tredear district a week ago, and found the enemy in force at Baden Weston, Reit river.

"The column under Col. Boyd, commandant at Belmont establishment, made a permanent advance to the post of Richmond, 12 miles west of Belmont, and a company of Canadians, with a mounted force, will be left to garrison the post, from which an advance can be made to clear out rebels from the district."

QUEBEC'S BLUNDER.

Montreal, Jan. 30.—The tax of $1.90 per cord placed on pulp wood with a rebate of $1.50 per cord when the pulp produced therefrom is manufactured within the limits of the province of Quebec is not working as its promoters intended. Its purpose was to cut off the supply of American pulp manufacturers. It is not only doing that, but has cut off the supply of two big pulp mills located on the Ottawa river just outside the limits of the province, in Ontario.

Plum Puddings and Mince Pies often have bad effects upon the small boy who over indulges in them. Pain-Killer as a household medicine for all such ills is unequalled. Avoid substitutes, there is but one Pain-Killer, Perry Davis' 25c. and 50c.

Imperial Parliament

Inquiry Into War Preparations at Instance of the Ministers.

Liberal Leader in Commons Supports Vigorous Prosecution of Conflict.

But Roundly Condemns Chamberlain and Treatment of Cape Dutch.

By Associated Press.

London, Jan. 30.—The Imperial parliament assembled to-day. The Queen's speech was read in the House of Lords by the Lord High Chancellor at 2 p.m., and both houses then adjourned until 4 o'clock. After routine in the Commons Capt. Ernest G. Pretyman, Conservative member for the Woodbridge division of Suffolk, moved the address in reply.

Capt. Pretyman expressed the deepest sympathy, which he said was shared by both sides of the house, with the sufferers from the war and the sufferings in Natal. He further referred to the feeling of admiration for the gallantry of the troops who fell by all parties and remarked that additional common ground for pride was the gallantry and national spirit shown by both Great Britain and her colonies. He also expressed the hope that after war all race antagonism in South Africa would be obliterated. Continuing Capt. Pretyman, who is a retired captain of artillery, said an inquiry was necessary as to how the requirements of war had been under-estimated. The Captain then appealed for the union of all parties in support of the government in its efforts to satisfactorily conclude a just war. Mr. Herbert P. Pike-Pease, Liberal-Unionist member for Darlington, seconded the address.

NO PARTIES IN THE WAR.

The Liberal leader in the House of Commons, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, then rose to reply, amidst cheers from the opposition benches. Sir Henry, commenting on the Queen's speech, said he had seldom known so little to be said in such large number of words. As, however, the war advanced it became more difficult and more critical and he was not surprised that the government had not proposed a formidable programme of legislation as affairs in South Africa, political and military, would undoubtedly engage the present parliament to great extent. The war was uppermost in all minds when the members separated in October, and it was believed there were troops enough in South Africa to rapidly clear the Queen's dominions. But their expectations had been sobered. Week after week had seen checks, disappointments and deplorable loss of life. In every instance the advance of British troops had been stayed by large bodies of the enemy. But the country had rallied and again gone through greater trials with courage and composure and would not now depart from its high traditions.

The courage and fortitude of British soldiers was never more conspicuous, and they must associate with this the sons of the colonies who had shown extraordinary aptitude in this kind of warfare. He appreciated the gallantry and devotion which led their countrymen to volunteer, but he wished to know the reasons which necessitated this unusual method of re-enforcing the army. He and his friends had resolved to support a vigorous prosecution of the war, that the integrity of the Queen's dominions be speedily vindicated, and he imagined there would be no difficulty in obtaining the additional supplies necessary.

WAR OFFICE CRITICISED.

"Here my agreement with the government ceases," said Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who then proceed with a bitter condemnation of the administration, and the tone and temper in which it had approached the whole South African problem, saying that the narrowness of the government's provision for military requirements necessitated hostilities, and asserting that its policy made war probable. He believed this feeling was largely shared by the house and was glad of the opportunity promised to express his opinion. The speaker repudiated the idea that they should await the end of the war before discussing the matter. This was the very time, he declared for effective criticism and those wishing to disclaim responsibility should do so now.

"The ministers tell us," Sir Henry continued, "that this war was undertaken to secure equal rights for white men. I hope they will transfer this laudable doctrine to this country. Many instances might be applied where too little consideration has been shown under Mr. Chamberlain's administration to the loyal Dutch of Cape Colony. The Cape ministers, who are as much crown ministers as Mr. Chamberlain, treated them in a manner ill calculated to allay doubts and fears.

"The recess brought many speeches on this subject and astonishment succeeded astonishment at their statements. They now declare that conflict was inevitable, which is obviously an ex post facto opinion, and if not the ministers are hopelessly condemned and ought to be hurled from power."

CHALLENGED BY BALFOUR.

Mr. Arthur J. Balfour after a vain attempt to draw Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman into an admission that he did not advocate pushing the war into Boer territory, reproached him with waiting until the country had become involved in military difficulties to bring a vote of censure on the Colonial Secretary, which might have been brought, Mr. Balfour declared, at any time since 1895. In general defence of the Colonial Secretary and the government's policy, Mr. Balfour said, that at one time the government believed the war would be avoided, but had subsequently become convinced that the Boer government never from the first intended to give these franchise concessions, the withholding of which meant war. He denied that General Buller had expressed the opinion that the forces sent out were inadequate.

On the contrary, General Buller held the common military opinion that the forces sent out were quite sufficient. If the government had asked parliament last August, he continued, to authorize the despatch of a large army, it would have been not only extremely bad diplomacy but would have been impossible to persuade parliament of its necessity.

Replying to the direct question put by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman: "Did General Buller go to Natal purely in the exercise of his military discretion?" Mr. Balfour answered in the affirmative. He then proceeded to rebuke the opposition for criticising the war office, declaring that it was solely due to the efforts of the government during the last three years that the army and armaments were greatly improved.

"The opposition," said Mr. Balfour, "are apparently ready to take upon their own shoulders the government of the country and the conduct of the war. I wish them well through the task. The government has not disguised from itself the magnitude of the task and if parliament should think it advisable to exchange the government at the present juncture, I can only say that I would support any succeeding government in the steps necessary to prosecute the war to the conclusion we all desire; but the government will endeavor to discharge the great responsibility so long as it retains the confidence of parliament."

AMENDMENT MOVED.

Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice then moved in amendment to the address: "And we humbly express our regret at the want of foresight and judgment displayed by Her Majesty's advisers as shown alike in the conduct of African affairs since 1895 and in their preparation for the war now proceeding."

Lord Fitzmaurice attacked Mr. Chamberlain's policy, especially his failure to punish the raiders and the retention of Mr. Cecil Rhodes as a member of the privy council, together with "irritating and reckless methods that plunged the country into war before any adequate preparations were possible."

The debate was then adjourned.

London, Jan. 31.—There was an utter lack of interest in the debate in the House of Commons to-day. At no time was the house well filled. The speeches were academic, travelling in deep, worn ruts, and did not touch upon the future, in which alone the public is much interested. The only sign of animation during the whole session was when Sir Robert Threshie Reed attacked the South African committee, drawing forth cries from the Irish members, "Publish the Hawksley letters." Mr. A. J. Balfour, replying to the suggestion of Sir John Henry Kennaway, Conservative, said he regretted that it would be contrary to precedent to curtail the debate, as the amendment was a vote of censure upon which the fate of the government depended.

The amendment of Lord Edward Fitzmaurice is virtually a vote of censure on his brother, the Marquis of Lansdowne, secretary of state for war.

Replying to the criticism of Mr. Francis Stevenson, Liberal, Mr. A. J. Balfour, government leader, said nothing had thus far occurred to convince him that the information given by the intelligence department regarding the Boer guns was erroneous.

Mr. Sidney Charles Buxton, Liberal, referred to the charge brought against the chancellor of the exchequer and the treasury, whereupon the chancellor of the exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, hotly interrupted, saying: "From the very beginning neither the treasury nor chancellor have in any way stinted any preparations or expenditure the cabinet thought necessary."

Sir Robert Threshie Reed, Liberal, bitterly arraigned the government's "recklessness and duplicity," which he said aroused the first misunderstanding with the Boers, and which, fostered and stimulated by the "wickedness and folly of a few men," resulted in the war. Amidst opposition cheers and ministerial murmurs Sir Robert declared that, having regard for the general discredit attaching to Great Britain in the minds of foreigners by the events connected with the Jameson raid, it was the duty of the government to take up the broken threads and pursue the inquiry to its final end. The parliamentary commission of inquiry, he further asserted, was a scandal and a dishonor to the house, and there was a suspicion that the raid was organized with the complicity of Mr. Chamberlain.

Mr. William St. John Broderick, under secretary of foreign affairs, closed the day's debate. He traversed generally the indictments of the opposition, which he characterized as "immoral" at such a time as the present. No Conservative, he added, defended the raid, from which the government had suffered more than anybody, because when the raid had been precipitated President Kruger "had vent the government from carrying the war to a successful conclusion.

Lords Pass The Address.

Liberal Leaders' Advice Is for Precautions Against Future Surprise.

Salisbury on the Causes of Admittedly Grave Danger to the Empire.

Secret Service Must Be Provided for—Lansdowne on Boer Capacity.

By Associated Press.

London, Jan. 30.—In the House of Lords the Duke of Somerset, moving the address in reply to the Queen's speech, said he looked forward confidently to a successful termination of the war. He urged the necessity for reform in the military administration, and said that heretofore the army seemed to have existed for the benefit of the war office, and that in future the war office must exist for the benefit of the army. He eulogized the loyalty of the colonies, especially Canada, and strongly deprecated the adverse criticism of General Buller, his remarks in this connection being cheered. He said he had every confidence in General Buller and in Lord Roberts.

The Earl of Shaftsbury, seconding the address, emphasized the debt of gratitude which Great Britain owed to her colonies and expressed satisfaction at the settlement of the Samoan question.

The Liberal leader in the House of Lords, the Earl of Kimberley followed. He said he was glad to learn that Great Britain's relations with other states were friendly. He added that he believed the term could be justly applied to the relations with European governments and the United States, and deprecated undue attention to the attacks of the foreign press. His Lordship congratulated Lord Salisbury on the conclusion of the agreement with Germany, but strongly disapproved of the tone of Mr. Chamberlain's speech. In that connection, however, he paid a warm tribute to the conduct of the soldiers in the field and to the loyalty of the British colonies. Although the movement was one of deepest gravity, he would entirely abstain from criticism of the conduct of the Generals. It was the duty of the government to select men to conduct these operations and it was their duty to support the government. It was, therefore, unwise to criticise the Generals in these operations. He did not mean to imply that the Generals were not doing their utmost to fulfil their arduous duties, but the government would be wise if it made every effort to prepare thoroughly for what might occur in the future.

PRECAUTIONS ADVISED.

Continuing, Lord Kimberley said: "We might meet a period of disaster, and, although our relations with the other powers are friendly it would be well to consider possibilities of the future, and it would be well if the government prepared for all eventualities and all dangers and made ready for the means to surmount them. The government does not seem to have been aware of the scale of preparations of the South African republics."

Lord Kimberley also urged that the government ought to have been aware of the importation of arms into the Transvaal and ought to have informed the Transvaal that unless it desisted it must result in Great Britain sending a large force to South Africa. He could not believe the government was so ignorant of the preparations of the Transvaal and the ministers could not divest themselves of the responsibility.

JAMESON TO BLAME.

Baron Balfour of Burleigh said the Jameson raid had closed the mouth of the government and prevented it from protesting against the arming of the Transvaal. But, he added, the government must have known armaments were accumulating to an extent unjustified by fears of another raid. It was the duty of the government to communicate with the Boer government on the subject of increased armaments, but as the first step it ought to have severely punished the raiders. The country had not reached a pass that if the government appealed to it, it would not have supported the government in any preparation it thought necessary. He would do nothing to prevent the government from carrying the war to a successful conclusion.

SALISBURY ON GRAVE ISSUE.

Lord Salisbury in reply to the Earl of Kimberely asserted that there was nothing in the stipulations of the convention to limit and hinder the importation of arms and ammunition into the Transvaal through Lorenzo Marques. Continuing the premier said: "We must join together and exercise all our powers in extricating ourselves from a situation full of humiliation and not free from danger. I will not say the danger may not have easily been exaggerated. No country has commenced war with difficulties of the kind we experienced. We have only to look at what the Northern States of America went through at the beginning of the civil war to see how easy it would be to draw a mistaken inference from the reverse we have met at the outset. We have every ground to think that if we set ourselves heartily to work and exert all the undoubted instruments of the power we possess we shall bring the war to a satisfactory conclusion. We have work which appeals to us as subjects of the Queen and it must throw in the shade all thought of party expediency."

Lord Salisbury then said he regretted that Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice, in the House of Commons, was about to bring the issue into party controversy, adding that the only place where his action would meet with sympathy was Pretoria. "Our efforts," the premier continued, "Must be to retrieve ourselves from the present situation which cannot be allowed to last. This Empire is a valuable and splendid but responsible possession. We must concentrate our efforts. If we do not tame all the smaller passions into one great duty, we run the danger of convulsions which will tarnish the Empire's lustre and perhaps menace its integrity.

Continuing the Premier said: "How were we to know about the importations of arms. I believe guns were introduced into the Transvaal in boilers and munitions of war in piano cases. We had a small secret service fund. If you want much information you must give much money. Consider the enormous amounts spent by the governments, especially the Transvaal, which, I have heard on high diplomatic authority spent £800,000 in a single year, and the small sums spent by England, making it impossible for us to have the omniscence attributed to us by Lord Kimberley.

"I am glad the action of the military authorities is not questioned at a time when our generals in the field and many of those who could give most valuable information are unable to appear. We should defer an inquiry to a more convenient season."

Later the Premier admitted the difficulties of the existing system, remarking that the treasury has acquired a power which was not a public benefit.

ROSEBERY'S ADVICE.

Lord Rosebery, who followed, spoke with great force and earnestness. He asked why the Premier made it so difficult for the man-in-the-street to support his policy. The past conduct of the government would come up for investigation, he hoped, adding: "We have the right to know if before the crisis, the intelligence department supplied the government with sufficient information. It not, dismiss the department. If the government possessed the information their responsibility is heavy. I hope that when the time for the investigation arrives, those who have served the Queen will be covered with such glory that the eyes of the investigators will be dazzled.

"I was appalled at the nature and style of Lord Salisbury's speech. We have now 120,000 men in South Africa, yet we are with difficulty holding our own. The attitude of foreign nations is described as friendly. But that does not strike me as being so amicable as the word would imply. I deem it necessary to know what the government is going to do. Lord Salisbury said the cause of our disasters was the smallness of the secret service fund and the British constitution. But what is the government's duty. Some form of compulsory service must be introduced to meet the growing exigencies of the Empire and I am sure the nation will not shrink from either that or any other sacrifice to preserve the Empire's predominance.

"That we should shrink from sending away vast masses of troops, situated as we are in the centre of a universe by no means friendly to us, without having a hint from the government what military measures it proposed to take to face disasters we have met and the sacrifices we have made, is one of the most extraordinary features of British constitution. I agree with Lord Salisbury, that the country can carry this thing through in spite of all the impediments of men and methods that have shackled it in the past. But I venture to say it will have to be inspired by a lofty tone and a truer patriotism than shown by the Prime Minister."

THE SECRETARY FOR WAR.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, secretary of state for war, followed. He said he was prepared to make a statement at a future date. The government, he added, was not prepared and had excellent reasons for not pushing its arrangements further. In his opinion the intelligence department had accurately estimated the numbers and armaments of the enemy, but not their fighting power.

"The Boer forces have shown an amount of resource, mobility and tenacity," Lord Lansdowne admitted, "upon which the government did not calculate." With regard to the charge of unpreparedness for war, he declared that the government had hoped and believed the negotiations would end in peace and that overt preparations for a conflict would only have tended to precipitate it.

The address was then adopted.

Casualties Total Two Thousand

By Associated Press.

London, Feb. 1, 4 a.m.—The supplemental list of casualties fills two columns in nonpareil type in the morning papers, making 1,300 reported thus far for Gen. Buller's operations north of the Tugela. The Daily Chronicle estimates that the total exceeds 2,000.

The 40 per cent. loss at Spion Kop is greater than any British force ever suffered, except possibly at Albuera.

The admiralty has warned all half-pay naval officers to hold themselves in readiness for service. This with the fact that able seamen thoroughly experienced have been withdrawn from the Channel squadron, is taken to indicate the early mobilization of the reserve fleet, especially "A" division.

At a meeting of the army and navy members of the House of Commons yesterday, a resolution expressing absolute confidence in whatever the government thought necessary commanded only two votes. Instead of this a resolution was adopted calling for the immediate formation of a home defence force.

Lord Salisbury has called another meeting of the cabinet council for Friday or Saturday to consider the situation.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

To Meet with Two Seats Vacant—Judicial Commission on Election Frauds.

Toronto, Jan. 30.—The Ontario legislature has been summoned to meet on Wednesday, February 14. The session probably will be short.

There is deep interest in the provincial bye-election to be held Thursday in East Middlesex. There are two other vacancies in the legislature, North Waterloo and West Huron, where liberals unseated after gaining seats at bye-elections have appealed from the ruling of the courts. These will probably remain vacant until after the session.

The government has appointed a judicial commission to inquire into the conduct of the returning officers at the bye-election in West Elgin some months ago. The commission consists of County Judge McTavish, Ottawa; Barron, Stratford, and Morgan, Toronto.

Calls Offer A Mistake.

Hint From Ottawa Indicating Cause of the Delay in Accepting.

British Columbia Might Be Satisfied to Recruit for Strathcona's

Evasive Response by Minister to Mayor's Request for Information.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Jan. 31.—In connection with the separate British Columbia contingent, the department of militia is prepared to undertake the task of organization and equipment charging the province only the contract rate for arms, uniforms and horses. The feeling prevalent here, however, is that British Columbia is making a mistake in pressing a separate corps, as its identity will be completely lost in South Africa. It would likely be attached on arrival to some Imperial corps.

Especially is this view general since it has been decided to recruit a squadron of Strathcona Horse in the province, the number required being as follows: In Victoria, Vancouver, Kamloops, Vernon, fifteen each; Revelstoke, Golden, ten each; Nelson, Fort Steele, forty each. Total 150. Sergt. Elliot, well known in Victoria, is likely to be sergeant-major of Strathcona's Horse.

Capt. T. E. Pooley will get a commission in Strathcona's Horse. Halifax is definitely defined as the port of departure.

COLD SHOULDERED.

The impression given by the above despatch that Ottawa is somewhat unsympathetic in regard to British Columbia's offer, is strengthened by perusal of the following correspondence showing an effort by Mayor Hayward to get something tangible which to start preliminaries of organization, and the chilling response from the Minister of Militia, curt and unsatisfactory, not deigning to include the friendly suggestion or advice which the Mayor's request for information might well have elicited. Here are the telegrams:

TO MINISTER OF MILITIA.

January 30, 1900.

Hon. F. W. Borden, Ottawa, Ont.:

Great interest taken here in British Columbia contingent, whole province aroused over lack of definite information. Would allay feeling if you state who will have appointment of officers and organization of same if accepted.

If event being organized locally provisional arrangement can be made at once. We can guarantee full squadron from B.C. if same will be accepted.

Please wire Premier Semlin and myself. Morning press say you have accepted offer squadron B.C. No confirmation here.

(Sgd.) CHAS. HAYWARD,
Mayor and Chairman Patriotic Com.

THE MINISTER'S ANSWER.

Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 31, 1900.

Chas. Hayward, Mayor, Victoria, B.C.:

British Columbia's offer referred to war office. Awaiting answer.

F. W. BORDEN.

RELYING ON THE FLEET

Giving Security to British Possessions While South Africa Calls Off the Soldiery.

London, Jan. 31.—It is now known that the cabinet devoted much of its discussion on Saturday to the mobilization of the fleet. Nothing was settled except that until further security has been obtained by naval preparations, the Eighth division shall not be sent out to South Africa.

On Monday the admiralty issued orders that the Channel Squadron, instead of leaving Portland this week for Gibraltar, as previously directed, shall assemble on February 5 off Eddystone and proceed to Bantry for a fortnight's exercise off the Irish coast, thus keeping in home waters for a time.

This decision to delay the Eighth division at a time when reinforcements are so urgently required, may only mean that transports are not yet available, and that the division will embark when the shipping is ready. The mobilization of the reserves of warships, if such a course shall be determined upon, would be of the utmost importance. There is nothing in the intelligence possessed by the public to cause the cabinet's prolonged discussion of this matter, and the inference is that the fleet may be mobilized as a general warning to other countries to keep their hands off the Transvaal question, or the ministry may have definite knowledge that the neutral powers propose to take some advantage elsewhere while England is busy in South Africa.

There is talk of 47 militia battalions being embodied. These are all of the militia not previously warned.

MINISTERS UNOPPOSED.

Hugh John Macdonald and Colleague Re-Elected by Acclamation.

Winnipeg, Jan. 30.—Premier Macdonald was re-elected without opposition for South Winnipeg; also Hon. D. H. McFadden, the new Provincial Secretary, who represents Emerson constituency.

Hon. J. A. Davidson, the new treasurer, has still to find a seat and will probably not seek election until some of the election protests are heard from.

There is no uncertainty about Pyny-Pectoral. It cures your cough quickly. All bronchial affections give way to it. 25c. of all druggists. Manufactured by the proprietors of Perry Davis' Pain-Killer.

Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine is mother's favorite remedy for croup, bronchitis, asthma, coughs, colds and sore throat. It has by far the largest sale of any remedy for coughs and colds. It is pleasant to the taste, prompt in action and is an absolute safeguard against consumption and pneumonia. 25 cents a bottle. Family size 00 cents.