

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 7, 1900.

CANADIAN GARRISON FOR HALIFAX.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier made the happy announcement in the House of Commons today that the Imperial authorities have accepted the offer of the Canadian government to supply a Canadian garrison for Halifax.

The offer was formally made two weeks ago, although negotiations had been going on for a longer time, Hon. Dr. Borden, Minister of Militia, being said to have discussed the matter thoroughly with Sir William Symonds when in Halifax to say farewell to the second contingent.

With the dispatch which has characterized all its movements since the raising of the first regiment was first mentioned, the Militia Department is already at work arranging to have members of the militia sent to Halifax at once to relieve the British regiments who will go to South Africa.

REORGANIZING CANADA'S DEFENCES.

The suggestion is made that the experience gained from this war in South Africa should lead to the taking of more active measures by way of preparing every citizen of Canada to take part in defensive operations in the event of the country ever being attacked.

There is, however, always the danger that Canadians may be some day called upon to defend their country. It is therefore important to realize that the conditions of warfare, as has been amply demonstrated in South Africa, afford to the defender a much greater advantage over the attacking force than ever before in the case.

The modern magazine rifle will shoot straight for from two to three miles, and a bullet from one of them will pierce a tree or any other intervening object, behind which it was once possible to hide.

With smokeless powder the defender, if he occupies a slight elevation of the ground, has the other man at his mercy for a couple of miles. He can fire twelve times as many shots a minute as the soldiers of 1870 were able to, and their greater penetrative power, greater precision and greater range is expected to bring the rifles of the very near future to forty times the effectiveness of those used in the Franco-Prussian war.

Formerly the soldier could carry only forty or fifty cartridges; pretty soon he will be able to take from four hundred to six hundred with him without increasing his burden.

The man behind the gun, especially if he happens to be also behind a mound of earth, is quite invisible at a distance. The assaulting party see nothing, hear nothing, and only know of the proximity of an enemy when some one is struck, and then they can only guess where to look for the foe.

With these things before us it is easy to understand how the British troops moving across the open to storm the Boer entrenchments have been mowed down by relatively small bodies of the enemy. It would seem to be probable that the coming victories in the Transvaal are to be duplicates of the Cronje incident, the enemy being surrounded and reduced to a hopeless plight and in surrender. There is in the new conditions,

much to justify a country with a relatively small population such as we have in Canada in putting the utmost faith in their ability to render a good account of themselves if the need should arise. There is, therefore, much to be said in favor of adopting a policy which would result in the training of all able-bodied citizens in the use of the magazine rifle, and in familiarizing them with the conditions under which a defence could be best carried on, concluding the training with the work of entrenching a good topographical position.

BRITAIN'S WAR IN AFRICA.

The position of THE TELEGRAPH in respect to the war in South Africa is one of complete identification with the British side of the argument, and that not because of a desire to meet with the approval of those whose patriotism may on occasion lead them to abandon all argument, but in the conviction that in the struggle which has been precipitated in South Africa there is but one possible outcome to which the world can look as desirable in the best interests of advancing civilization.

The Boer oligarchy, which has mismanaged the affairs of the Transvaal for so many years, which has deliberately and for its own selfish purposes trampled upon the political rights of the men who have labored and invested their capital within its borders, which has shown itself to be as corrupt as it is possible for a despotic bureaucracy to be, which has ignored as though it had no existence the political progress of the last two centuries, has shown itself to be utterly unfit to be left in possession of the privileges it has usurped.

Moreover, this same oligarchy has not only displayed a consistent opposition to those liberalizing tendencies which British citizens have carried to the ends of the world, but during at least half a score of years has been engaged in an active propaganda for the overthrow of British supremacy in all South Africa.

In a community such as ours, where the blessings of British representative institutions are in full operation, there could be no two opinions about such procedure nor any doubt that such a policy was not only certain to lead to war, but that war, which is after all only a police measure on a large scale, was both desirable and necessary in the interests of the Transvaal itself, of that Empire which has assumed so much responsibility for the uplifting of the human race in so many parts of the world, and in a perhaps larger measure in the interest of that common humanity whose good fortune or evil fortune may be affected and is affected by good or bad conditions in any part of the world.

That there may be an end to the venomous campaign which a local newspaper has seen fit to institute, it is perhaps desirable that once and for all the position of THE TELEGRAPH on this matter should be thus frankly stated. The habitual readers of this paper will understand that there is no shadow of question about its views respecting the war. It is the fact, however, that hundreds of new readers are being added to the subscription list every week, and it is perhaps as well, in justice to these, that the foregoing statement should be formally made.

We are convinced, if it is a satisfaction to any one to know it, that there has been for years a deliberate design on the part of the disloyal element in all parts of South Africa to break away from the sovereignty of Great Britain. We are convinced that the Jameson Raid, the tortuous course of President Kruger in the franchise negotiations, the robbery of British capitalists by corrupt extortions, the cynical disregard for the safety of British lives and property, the laying in of arms and ammunition on a scale seldom found in Europe, and finally the ultimatum of President Kruger and the invasion of British territory were each and all logical incidents in the working out of this great plan. It goes without saying that Canadians, who enjoy all the advantages of that freedom which comes from British representative institutions could have but one opinion about such proceedings, an opinion which has found its ultimate expression in the death of Canadian citizen soldiers in attacks upon the entrenchments of the enemy.

If you want to know how strong you are, go out in the next big wind and do your best to go against it. Then watch for the report of the velocity at that time, square it, divide by two hundred, and you have the pressure to the square foot. If you wear an overcoat there will be a surface of about ten square feet. At six o'clock yesterday morning, with the wind blowing seventy-two miles an hour, it was necessary to have a resisting power of at least two hundred and fifty pounds to make any headway.

COL. McLEAN'S LETTER.

March 3rd, 1900.

To the Editor of the Telegraph:— Sir—I am quite satisfied with your explanation respecting the non-publication of my letter of the 1st inst. in the Telegraph.

Yours respectfully, (Signed) HUGH H. McLEAN. It may have been noticed by readers of the Telegraph that a letter addressed to this paper was published in the St. John Globe of March 2, in which exception was taken by Col. H. H. McLean to certain language used in an article in the Telegraph of the previous day.

In a note addressed to Col. McLean by the editor of the Telegraph it was explained that the letter was not published because its publication must necessarily convey a misleading impression. In the article complained of reference had been made to statements emanating from loyal Dutchmen in Cape Colony as reported by Mr. Albert Cartwright, a journalist of long experience. For the statements thus made Col. McLean and others have seen fit to hold the editor of the Telegraph responsible.

The attack that has been made upon the editor of the Telegraph, is not, it is pleasing to know, countenanced by Col. McLean, of whose letter much capital has been made. There is an objection which every newspaper man will understand to the proceeding of attacking an editor in his own personality, but another standard appears to have been set in St. John which for this occasion may perhaps with advantage be respected. It may not be inopportune, therefore, to say that the present editor of the Telegraph is and for years has been convinced of the justice of the cause espoused by Great Britain in this Transvaal controversy and convinced to that for the sake of the Empire and in the interest of civilization a war on the present lines must and ought to come.

As a Canadian who has known no other than British institutions and wishes for Canada no other destiny than to continue under the British flag and to take its place among the nations as a partner in the Empire, anything like a personal defense ought to be unnecessary. A combination of malice in one direction and misunderstanding in another has however seemed to make some such explanation only fair to those who have so loyally continued to the new management of the Telegraph the confidence for so many years reposed in the old. The paper is now by long odds the best read in Montreal, and will be made better, and no Canadian journalist need ask a more congenial undertaking than to preserve the traditions and continue the policy of the paper which holds a position in the community that is quite unique and the despair of its rivals.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

It should be the first purpose and aim of every loyal Briton and every true Canadian to consolidate the Empire by every possible means. No means to this end are so important as the promotion of good will between fellow subjects of different races and nothing can do more to injure the Empire than race feuds within it upon the question of loyalty.—[Montreal Witness.

For Canadians yesterday was a day of magnificent splendor. At a single bound we have jumped from the role of colonists to a leading position among the great forces of the Empire. The name Canada is now a synonym for courage, endurance, bravery. The men of this Northern Zone are physically the best specimens of the Anglo-Saxon race. Canada's brave sons have placed her at the head of the list for patriotism and courage.—[Toronto World.

If the stern necessity arose, the men who are battling for the Empire in South Africa would show the European armies that British pluck and valor did not die with the men who fell at Waterloo. It is strange, too, that the press of Britain, including The Times, while admiring the courage of Her Majesty's soldiers, urged the abandonment of further direct attempts to reach Ladysmith, and warned the public to prepare for a disaster which would parallel the surrender of Yorktown.—[Toronto Globe.

It was the yellow press of the United States that forced that country into war with Spain, and in like manner a certain part of the Conservative press in Canada is doing the best it can to create friction between the two races that inhabit this country. It has cartooned Sir Wilfrid Laurier as a poltroon, and daily holds Mr. Tarte up to scorn as a Canadian whose first duty is to France. This maliciously false doctrine, coupled with a ready loyalty that creates in its readers a false conception of what true loyalty is, is establishing a sentiment in the minds of many English-speaking citizens that it will take years to eradicate.—[Montreal Herald.

Congratulations to the Telegraph upon its enterprise Thursday morning.—[Progress. Canada first—in America or Africa.

Men's Spring Clothing.

Every day this last two weeks we have been opening cases of Spring and Summer Clothing. The stock room is piled sky-high of Clothing which is the handiwork of the best makers of clothing in this country.

For first-class quality of cloth trimmings and workmanship our splendid spring selections in Tweeds, Serges and Worsteds cannot be excelled.

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At these prices we would call your attention to our line of Serge and Worsteds Suits.

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ST. JOHN, N. B.

THE MONTREAL RIOTS.

The news from Montreal telling of riots they had in that city on Ladysmith day and the day following makes very sad reading for patriotic Canadians who realize that the best service Canadians can render the mother land is to keep the different elements of our Canadian population thoroughly united in bonds of mutual respect and good will.

On the day itself a number of young men, said to have been led by students of McGill College, went to the French newspaper offices and to the City Hall and, with an insistence that is inseparable from the proceedings of young men out to enjoy themselves, behaved in a way not likely to be agreeable to the proprietors of the different French newspapers whose premises were pretty severely handled.

This was probably only an extreme instance of patriotic ardor evoked by the good news that morning, and it is more than likely the McGill boys were not actuated by any feelings of hostility to French-Canadians as such. However, it unfortunately happened that at least some of our French-Canadian fellow subjects in Montreal failed to take that view of it, as on the following night a crowd led by a number of students from Laval University went to the Star office and one of their number climbed up the face of the small building to the roof and hauled down the British flag, throwing it to the excited mob, by whom, according to the Star's account, it was treated with indignity.

The students of Laval on the following day disavowed over the signature of a number of them any connection with this unfortunate affair and made public the resolution "that the students of Laval have heard with regret of the insult offered last night to the British flag at the Star office and other places and wish to call attention to the fact that these excesses must not be imputed to the members of Laval University, who did not as a body take any part in the demonstration." To their credit be said that the McGill students also formally disavowed responsibility for the excesses of the previous day, which included a good deal of window smashing at Laval University. Whatever may have been the excuse there can be nothing but the severest blame attached to an insult offered to the British flag in the metropolitan city of Canada, and we are sure that ninety-nine in every hundred of the people of Quebec will so regard the incident. It is noteworthy, however, that those who chose this means of avenging the attack on the French newspapers and on the French University

A correspondent at Memramcook in sending in the name of a new subscriber, writes: "From every part of the country The Telegraph is proclaimed as being in the foremost rank of journalism."

went straight to the office of the Montreal Star, which for months has been engaged in a campaign that, could hardly have any other result than to inflame the animosity of the Herald which has always treated French-Canadians with courteous consideration, cheered for the Queen, sang the National Anthem, and put the Herald's bulletins at the head of their possession. The office of the Gazette, the representative of the solid Conservative element in Montreal, which always has shown a fitting regard for the feeling of the French speaking people of the city was not in any way molested. The French students cheered the Queen in front of her statue. But they had it in for the Star.

With our contemporary, the Sun, we most heartily regret the excesses practised by both mobs, and particularly that of tearing down the British flag from the Star building. We cannot agree with the view of our contemporary, however, about the cause of the trouble. We believe the excitement shown by the English mob to have been largely prompted by the language of excess that has been so much indulged in by the Star itself, and certainly the French mob made it very clear to what source they attributed the origin of the dissensions, by treating the other papers with courtesy and confining their attention to Sir Charles Tupper's Montreal organ. Pity they did not stop at that, without insulting the flag that protects their race.

A FRENCH VIEW OF THE WAR.

A few months ago, their anger inflamed by France's backdown in the Fashoda affair, the newspapers of France were indulging in unrestrained recriminations

against England, accompanied by gross caricatures of the Queen. There are signs that the bitter feeling against England is now wearing away, perhaps the most significant being the recent publication of two views of England's South African policy, one by M. Yves Guyot, a well-known French statesman and economist, the other by M. Villarsis, a Frenchman who has lived in the Transvaal and whose published opinion M. Guyot reviews for a French paper. M. Villarsis takes the view which has been enunciated in these columns that, "A conflict was inevitable sooner or later for the reason that the principles at stake were absolutely inconsistent with each other." His final judgment upon the merits of the controversy is: "Everyone is free to sympathize with which ever side he pleases. It is, however, perhaps well to know that the choice to be made is not so much between English and Boers as between liberty, and oppression." "England," he says, "cannot yield in this affair in which she really represents the ideas and the interests of Europe, although the latter is still blind to that fact." And again, "She is not willing to let herself be despoiled of possessions which are valuable to her, not because of the gold mines in the Transvaal, as has been supposed, for she has shown, as in Australia for example, that she has allowed her colonies to reap the profit from such sources and has not taken anything for herself, but because of the Cape as a storehouse for her navy." M. Guyot, discussing another phase of the question says, "England protects the colonists against the natives, but she refuses to abandon the latter to the mercy of the whites." The value of this testimony is increased tenfold by the fact that it comes from Frenchmen who evidently think it high time that the insensate denunciation of England by the continental press should cease. The German papers of standing are beginning to take the same view.