

## RETROSPECT.

In the light of the events which have been taking place in Natal and on the southern and western frontiers of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal, events which have proved how thoroughly prepared for war the republics have been for years back, it is a useful and interesting exercise for the mind temporarily unemployed during this festive season, to speculate upon the probabilities had the men of Johannesburg risen to meet Dr. Leander Starr Jameson and his seven hundred from Mafeking on the night of December 29th, 1895. Before that date (since 1890), the Transvaal had been getting ready for the trouble its rulers saw must come sooner or later, so that in 1895 the fortifications of Johannesburg had been advanced to a state of completeness which would have enabled the garrison to lay the whole city in ashes in a few minutes. Of course it is since the Jameson raid that the supreme efforts of the Boers to perfect their defenses have been made, yet at the time mentioned the organization and equipment must have been very fine.

It is quite clear that if the intelligence department of the British war office found itself in a complete fog in the closing months of 1899, as to the state of affairs in the Transvaal, the "Transvaal National Union" of Johannesburg could not have known how completely the republic was prepared to deal with a rebellion of the Uitlanders. The scheme of the raid was about as rash a proceeding as men could commit themselves to. Plans were laid for an uprising in Johannesburg in the interest of the British residents, and prominent citizens wrote to Dr. Jameson, who was then administrator of Mashonaland and a highly-esteemed man, asking him for aid. He took seven hundred men and two guns, and made a dash across the frontier for Johannesburg, but was easily stopped and he and his whole force captured. Now, those plans were laid without due knowledge of the power against which they were laid.

Had the Uitlanders of Johannesburg known that the Transvaal government was in possession of a powerful modern artillery, and had in its employ European officers who had brought the Boer militia to a high state of efficiency with their favorite weapon, and who had so reduced the process preliminary to a call to arms that the telegraphing of one word simultaneously to every city, town and village in the republic would have brought fifty thousand expert riflemen and twelve hundred guns to their points of mobilization—had the "Transvaal National Union" known those things they would certainly have gone about the matter in another way. In a word, the strategy preserved by the Transvaal while it was doing all this is truly amazing to contemplate. How they managed to amass in these gigantic pieces of ordnance with all their fittings and machinery and mount them in fortifications said to be as strong as any in Europe, without attracting the attention of somebody, who would report it to the British government, passes comprehension.

Had the raiders been joined by the Johannesburgers in open revolt it is extremely probable that one of the bloodiest massacres in modern history would have been the result. The revolutionists were, without cannon, without organization, without a head, and they would have been opposed by a homogeneous force so powerful, well-trained, and courageous that four years later it proved itself able to check at three different points the very flower of the British army. The insurrection of the Uitlanders, it can hardly be doubted, would have been put down instantly and probably with terrible consequences to them, and the complications which would have ensued as one can imagine. It would have left the Transvaal with a small but powerful army in the field ready for any emergency, and it might have precipitated that South African confederation so long predicted.

Receiving the whole subject from the present day standpoint it seems a lucky thing that Jameson was compelled to surrender and that the matter ended as it did.

## HOW BRITAIN TAKES IT.

After all the talk about the British weakness in South Africa does anyone for a moment suppose that Great Britain would have acted otherwise than she has done? One is constrained to protest against such utterances as the following from the Toronto Mail and Empire:

"In a word, Britain is placing herself on a war footing, and the situation is met with a determination to fight as with a great power. It would never do to shrink in the face of reverses, nor alone for the sake of the Empire, but for the sake of civilization."

This leaves it open to suggestion that Great Britain might possibly have retired discouraged from the war because the Boers had dealt her troops some hard blows. But the idea is absurd to any Briton; though there is a striking modern instance to show that a European nation which was considered fit to make one in the triple alliance, has done what the Mail and Empire by implication suggests—that was Italy after the Battle of Adowa. Instead of throwing a fresh army into Abyssinia, storming Menelik's fortress of Magdala, and crushing the last vestige of independence out of the Abyssinians, Italy did nothing but mourn for the dead and for the loss of Ethiopia.

Had Great Britain been the sufferer at Adowa a very different course would

have been followed and the result of it would have been an important addition to the territory of the Empire. It is therefore nonsensical to suggest that Great Britain would ever shrink from any task because a few difficulties had been encountered at the outset. The magnitude of the job now in hand was not understood by those whom the British nation looked to in the matter; those persons neglected their duty, they failed utterly when the hour of test came and it is due to their carelessness, selfishness and blundering that there has been so lamentable a waste of life and property. But the British people do not cry over spilt milk; they are doing what they can now to make amends for the untrustworthiness of those officials, and no matter what fortune awaits our troops at the subsequent moves in this campaign, the British people will never consent to call this thing finished so long as there is a British regiment in South Africa and so long as the British flag does not fly from Cape Agulhas to the Zambesi.

British supremacy must be established in South Africa and the British people are not likely to alter their opinion on that matter without much better reasons than any that have been advanced so far. Timorous persons who imagine that the issue is in any doubt are simply not well-informed as to the resources now matched in South Africa. Let anyone compare them for a few moments and then ask himself if it is not absurd to think that the republics can sustain the present strain much longer. In men Britain outnumbered the combined republics hundreds to one; in money Britain has a million pounds to the republics' one; Britain commands the sea; the republics are fighting on a rapidly-diminishing stock of food, ammunition and stores of war; every Boer killed is a man lost; the place of every British soldier slain can be filled in the ranks many times over. The Boer case is desperate, while Britain is working toward a certainty, with time in her favor. The only effect of the reverses at the front has been to sting the pride of the British people and arouse their energies to the utmost pitch. There has been nothing like a panic and only temporary gloom for the victims of the disasters. Great Britain has found comfort for these misfortunes in the best of all cures for grief—action.

## END OF THE CENTURY.

By the favor of a revered father of the Roman Catholic church in this city we are enabled to lay before our readers that portion of the Universal Decree of His Holiness Pope Leo XIII., which declares the end of the present year to be the end of the nineteenth century. The Universal Decree is dated November 13th, 1899, and is signed: "O. Bishop of Pragueno, Cardinal, Mazarin, Prefect, Sacred Congregation of Rites," and "D. Daniel, Secretary." The portion of the decree referred to is as follows:

"Since, moreover, at midnight of the last day of December of the coming year the present century will come to an end, and a new one begin, it is very appropriate that thanks be given to God by some pious and solemn ceremony for the benefits received during the course of the present century, and owing to the urgent necessity of the times, that greater favors be implored in order to begin auspiciously the new era."

## BRITISH EMIGRATION.

Returns on emigration for October last, issued by the British Board of Trade, show a considerable falling off compared with the figures for the preceding October. The difference is 2,388 less this year than last. The number of emigrants who left the British shores for the colonies and foreign countries in October, 1899, being only 13,435. On the English returns, given at 8,352, there is a decrease of 1,953 as compared with October, 1898. The Scotch return of 1,556 shows a decline of 197, and the Irish at 3,527 shows a reduction of 188. The foreigners who sailed from British ports showed an increase of 1,740 on a total return of 8,490. Thus the total emigration during October amounted to 21,865, as compared with 22,455 same month last year, a net decrease of 590. Of the British total 8,352 went to the United States, 1,020 to Canada, 1,436 to Australia and 952 to South Africa.

## TRANSVAAL LAND HOLDINGS.

It may interest the public to have a comparison at this time of the extent and value of land held by Boers and British respectively in the Transvaal prior to the outbreak of the present war. The British do not now own the land, but it is likely that after the war their claims will be respected and restitution of property held before the war will be made. Here are the comparative tables:

	Per cent.
Owned by British subjects	35
Owned by Boers	65
British holdings	67
Boer holdings	33
(These figures do not include the value of mining or township lands)	100
Population.	
British and others	73
Boers	27
Of the foregoing 73 per cent., practically 80 per cent. were British.	100

The trade expansion resulting from the Canadian preferential tariff, although denied by Sir Charles Tupper, is admitted by the British press and public men. In his annual address to the Chamber of Commerce of Oroydon, the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Ritchie, pointed out that for the twelve months ended June 30th, 1898, the exports to Canada were £5,500,000. In the twelve months ending June 30th, 1899, they were £6,140,000, an increase of £625,000, or 11 per cent., as compared with only 54 per cent. from the United States to Canada. But that is only a year in which the new tariff is partly applicable. In the three months ending September 30th, 1899, there was an increase of exports to Canada of as much as 16 per cent. "These," adds the London paper from which we quote, "are very gratifying announcements, especially when it is remembered that from the nature of Canada's requirements a very large proportion of this great trade expansion must necessarily have been specially advantageous to manufacturers of mining machinery and tools, iron and steel, general machinery, and the great variety of metallurgical industries. We entertain a very high opinion of Canada's future from a mining and general trade standpoint."

General Roberts insisted on having a free hand in Africa. He cannot be blamed for trying to dissociate himself from a war effort that had not so much as a map of Natal worth looking at in November, 1899, and which didn't know till late this year that the fortifications of Johannesburg and Pretoria were amongst the strongest in the world and armed with the best cannon, imported under the noses of the British representatives.

Five English noblemen are now on their way to the seat of war, having volunteered for service after news of the last disaster. They are the Duke of Marlborough, Earl of Warwick, Prince Victor Dupleix Singh, Earl of Dudley and Lord Lansdale.

Orders have gone from London directing that no more naval detachments are to be placed in the fighting line. The naval man is a harder plant to rear than the soldier, and our navy is not over-manned just now.

News of the big quartz discovery near Dawson City caused quite a flutter of interest in London in spite of the extraordinary war news. If it turns out as reported Klondike's "fortune is made."

## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COL. PRIOR AND PRESIDENT KRUGER.

To the Editor:—One of the characteristics of the people, as Mr. A. E. McPhillips would say, "of this fair city of Victoria," is their adherence to the "fair play" motto. The son of His Grace the Duke of the air of a commoner, or whether it is Lieut.-Col. the Hon. E. G. Prior, M. P., or plain Mr. Subsequent, (the question is whether he has been sold or whether he is a member of the "Minked," I therefore suggest to Mr. David H. Ker not to be too hasty about the non-effect of Mr. John Morris's letter published in your issue of the 23rd inst.

It would be more becoming to Mr. Ker, who is no doubt a good judge of fact and who, to subordinate his own judgment to that of the government, or the city should pay for the prosecution, the man Quinn, lately charged with an infamous offence, remains in the city jail. At a congregational meeting to be held in the First Presbyterian church to-night, it will be attempted to have a straight issue upon the question whether Rev. Dr. Reid shall be retained.

## RAILWAYMEN REWARDED.

New York, Dec. 26.—The Great Northern Railroad, says a St. Paul dispatch, will in February distribute a certain number of shares of its stock among the oldest conductors, engineers and trainmen as a reward for faithful service. The sum will amount to several hundred thousand dollars, it is said. The Great Northern is the first railway to introduce the co-operative system.

Those unhappy persons who suffer from nervousness and dyspepsia should use Carter's Little Liver Pills, which are most effective for sleepless nervous dyspeptic sufferers. Price 25 cents.

## THE QUEEN'S CHRISTMAS TREE.

Her Majesty Will To-Day Entertain the Wives and Children of Soldiers.

London, Dec. 26.—The Christmas tree party, over which Queen Victoria will preside to-day, to which are invited the wives and children of soldiers at the front, has been arranged on a magnificent scale. The state apartments in all their splendor will be opened to the Queen's humblest guests. The rooms have been beautifully decorated with mistletoe, holly and flowers. A Christmas tree, 25 feet high, stands at the farther end of the apartment, weighted down with all manner of toys and mementoes. The tables, each a hundred feet long, have been set out for the tea, and the Waterloo chamber will be thrown open for games.

## ONE DOSE.

Tells the story. When your head aches, and you feel bilious, constipated, and out of tune, cure your stomach sour and no appetite, just buy a package of Hood's Pills.

And take a dose, from 1 to 4 pills. You will be surprised at how easily they will do their work, cure your headache and biliousness, rouse the liver, and give you feel happy again. 25 cents. Sold at all medicine dealers.

S. PERRY MILLS.

## Col. Otter's Cablegram

Clarke Wallace's Attempt to Make Political Capital Has Failed.

Minister of Militia's Reply to the Member for West York.

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—Clarke Wallace has sent another telegram to the minister of militia and has got his reply. Both are as follows:

"Woodbridge, Ont., Dec. 25. 'To Hon. Dr. Borden, Ottawa, Ont.:

"I am glad to see that my communication has elicited a welcome message from Col. Otter. It was not worth while telling us of the censorship. We knew about it very well, and we knew too, that it will not stop such a message as was received on Saturday. We will overlook for the time being your negligence and your omission of the cable, if it had not been for the fact that you will in future keep us duly informed."

"(Signed) N. CLARKE WALLACE."

To this Dr. Borden replies as follows:

"Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 26. 'To Hon. Clarke Wallace, Woodbridge, Ont.:

"The fact that your first telegram was given to the press before it reached Ottawa, shows that your one object was solely to make political capital. Your message, as a matter of fact, had not the slightest effect, as before it was received Col. Otter's cable had been sent, and no message had been sent to him from here. As to negligence of matters, I am perfectly willing the militia and the public should judge between us, although personally I should challenge your right to constitute yourself an authority on either."

"(Signed) F. B. BORDEN."

## NOTES FROM VANCOUVER.

Dr. Robinson Leaves to Join the Canadian Second Contingent—The Poisoning Case.

(Special to the Times.)

Vancouver, Dec. 26.—Dr. Robert Robinson, who for some years has been residing at Stevenson and in the north, left on Sunday for Toronto, where he joins the second contingent. The doctor was at one time a lieutenant in the Sixteenth Battalion.

General indignation has been aroused by the report of a meeting said to have been held in a local German beer hall at which strong resolutions favoring the Boers were passed and a despatch cabled to Dr. Leyds.

Rev. E. D. McLaren, of St. Andrew's church, made another spirited reference to the Savoy gambling case. He advocates that this be made an issue in the civic elections.

## RAILWAY WRECK.

Four Men Killed and Several Injured in Montana.

(Associated Press.)

Missoula, Mont., Dec. 26.—Four men were killed and several injured to-day in a wreck on the Northern Pacific railway, six miles east of Bearmouth. The dead are: Engineer E. B. Rhein; Fireman C. A. Dickson, and two trainmen who were standing a ride. Brakeman Wallace Mix was seriously scalded and bruised. The operator allowed the freight train from the west to pass when it should have been held on the siding.

## ASTHMA.

Mrs. George Budden, Putnamville, Ont., says: "I feel it my duty to recommend Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine, as I had the Asthma very bad, could get nothing to do me any good. A friend of mine persuaded me to try this remedy, as he had tried it, and it proved successful. I tried it and it cured me. I am thankful to-day to say I am a well man through the use of this remedy." 25 cents a bottle. Family size 90 cents.

## THE LATE D. L. MOODY.

Funeral Services at East Northfield Were Attended by an Immense Crowd.

(Associated Press.)

East Northfield, Mass., Dec. 25.—The funeral services in memory of the late Dwight L. Moody were held at the Congregational church here at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon, after which the body was borne to the round top, a historic spot on the grounds of the Institute, for burial. An immense crowd assembled to pay a last tribute to the memory of this remarkable evangelist.

## SEVEN INDIANS DROWNED.

They Were Attempting to Cross the Thompson River When Their Canoe Upset.

(Associated Press.)

Ashcroft, Dec. 26.—Seven Indians, including two women, were drowned last night a short distance west of this place by the upsetting of a canoe, in which they were attempting to cross the Thompson river.

## VANCOUVER CHURCH DISPUTE.

Vancouver, Dec. 27.—The long threatened schism in the East End Presbyterian church in this city has at length culminated, and the congregation, united but a year ago, resolves itself into its original parties. The local supporters of the present minister will hold a meeting to-night to establish a church independent of the Presbyterian.

## VICTIMS OF THE MAINE.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The remains of 151 dead sailors, victims of the Maine, arrived here this morning at 8 o'clock over the Chesapeake and Ohio railway. The caskets have been placed in open hospital tents and a grand guard of honor will be maintained over them until they are buried to-morrow.

## TWENTY MEN WERE KILLED.

Brownsville, Pa., Dec. 26.—The search for the remains of those killed at the Bezzell coal works resulted in the finding of five more bodies. This makes 20 victims of the explosion. It is believed that the dead are all out.

## KITCHENER AT GIBRALTAR.

(Associated Press.)

Gibraltar, Dec. 26.—Gen. Lord Kitchener has arrived here from Egypt.

If you are tired taking the large old-fashioned griping pills, try Carter's Little Liver Pills and take some comfort. A man can't stand everything. One pill a dose. Try them.

## One Dose Hood's Pills

Tells the story. When your head aches, and you feel bilious, constipated, and out of tune, cure your stomach sour and no appetite, just buy a package of Hood's Pills.

And take a dose, from 1 to 4 pills. You will be surprised at how easily they will do their work, cure your headache and biliousness, rouse the liver, and give you feel happy again. 25 cents. Sold at all medicine dealers.

S. PERRY MILLS.

**Corticelli SKIRT PROTECTOR**

There is no gum or rubber or anything in Corticelli Skirt Protector that will chafe your shoes. It is made of specially grown specially spun and specially woven wool.

It is better than any other skirt protector because it is made of different and better wool—it has an elastic, porous weave that dries out quickly when wet and sheds dust easily.

Sewed on flat—not turned over—one or two rows of stitching—every dress goods shade.

Sold every where 4 cts. a yard. Labeled thus

**Corticelli**

## It's a Pleasure...

To get such fine fruit as we are selling. The quality has never been better, and our prices enable you to buy the best at the prices of the cheapest. Our store is a wonderland of delicacies for your Xmas dinner. Don't miss them—

French Crystallized Fruits ..... 35c. box  
Malaga Table Raisins ..... 25c. lb  
Assorted French Nuts ..... 15c. lb  
Crosse & Blackwell Plum Pudding ..... 35c. tin  
New McLaren's Cheese ..... 35c. jar  
Nance Meat 5 lb. pails ..... 75c  
Fresh Island Eggs ..... 40c. dozen  
Morgan's Eastern Oysters ..... 75c. tin

## Dixie H. Ross &amp; Co.

SON OF AN OHIO MERCHANT CURED OF CHRONIC DIARRHOEA.

My son has been troubled for years with chronic diarrhoea. Some time ago I persuaded him to take some of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. After using two bottles of the 23-cent size he was cured. I give this testimonial, hoping some one similarly afflicted may read it and be benefited.—Thomas C. Bower, Gloucester, O. For sale by Henderson Bros., Wholesale Agents, Victoria and Vancouver.

## ROLAND REID ILL.

New York, Dec. 26.—Roland Reid, the actor, is seriously ill at St. Luke's hospital, suffering from appendicitis, and his road engagements for the holiday week have been canceled. The surgeons have not yet decided whether or not a surgical operation is necessary. They are hopeful of recovery.

Organs are said to have been first introduced into the churches by Pope Vitalianus about A.D. 1780.

## CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

Rich headsache, and relieve all the troubles incident to a bilious state of the system, such as Dizziness, Stomach, Drowsiness, Distress after eating, Pain in the Side, &c. While their use, the remarkable success has been shown in curing

## CURE SICK HEADACHE.

Headache, yet Carter's Little Liver Pills are equally valuable in Constipation, curing and preventing any annoying complaint, while they also correct all disorders of the stomach, stimulate the liver and regulate the bowels. Even if they only cure

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**Chilliwa**

Promoters and Lively Conf By- Some of the Al- ments Withd- sing Ag-

Wasting no time holidays the city con- down to work again- over two hours- tion of the Victoria- by ferry to the Main- consisting of Messrs- waited upon the boat- of the promoters of- to endeavor to obtain- of the amendments- the by-law. In some- successful, but the- dermen opposed red- the amount which it- for the promoters to- them before the city- payable, as suggested- to that proposal. U- mittes rose and rep- ing got no further- week, clause 2 of the- entered into between- company being still- One of the featu- was the assurance- the matter will be- issue. The citizens, h- earnest over the c- who are opposing the- land connection are- mated, at the risk- seats at the council

Although it was the- mas, Boxing Day, the- tees, and City Clerk- tor Bradburn were a- After the minutes of- meeting and of the- sequent held had be- adopted, it was decid- file without reading- C. A. Semlin, Hon- H. D. Hildmeyer, Q- E. McPhillips, M.P.,- receipt of the council- the Songhees reservat- Constance M. Thom- ment, advised the cou- tion to deliver a seri- nursing in the city- Year, asked for a gra- free use of a hall, a- communicating in sim- the council's action in- New Westminister.

Ald. Humphrey and- referring the letter to- rectors of the Jubilee- forward thought the- some consideration. I- is Victoria is, where- many people going in- way from medical as- lectures such as that- had been varied. The- for the letter to the- report. In the me- ascertained from the- directors what they th- and whether they were- some action in reco- This was seconded b- and duly carried.

The city assessor re- tion of the Johnson e- roposing paving of B- report out that the pe- tion contained the signa- tures, representing \$- one now referred to B- work was signed by b- \$50,800.

Received and filed, a- report to be sent to the- F. J. Claxton and on- mitted the compliments- for their attention- a light at the com- venue and Fernwood- amp there being out- week, with much pro-

Referred to the elect- re for report.

The standing comm- in two reports, re- ment out of current r- \$2,774.82 and \$1,80- ere duly adopted. The- The judgments Paym- ought up for recon- ally passed, and then- salness of the evening.

the Victoria & Sidney- It will be remember- cial meeting last We- rule by-law was un- mitted, clause a- ent to be entered into- and the company hav- ad amended. Last eve- nued went into comm- with more than an adjo- for a few minutes be- mal conference bet- messrs. Belyea and Re- freed to, and when the- shed had taken seats- ward, Mr. Belyea said- endeavor to show th- some amendment is ne- siderable comment ha- to newspapers and it- no is behind the sch- necessary for him to re- ances leading up to the- is proposed extension.

citizens a committee w- rules into the best me- tion with the Main- timental communica- ttee worked hard along- this by- the con- the sch- rules were no pr- no was a- of it; th- as was- edit- this, but the object- w. Turning to the amend-

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