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BRITAIN WILL DEPEND ON NAVY

Secretary of War Announces Abandonment of Coast Defences

More Than 300 Guns to Be Dismantled and Troops to Be Withdrawn from Wei-Hai-Wei—Also Declares That Danger of India's Invasion is Unlikely—Government is Against Conscription to Increase Army—Hopes That Powers Will Agree to Reduce Armament.

London, March 8.—In introducing the army estimates, amounting to nearly \$150,000,000, in the house of commons this afternoon, War Secretary Haldane announced at the outset that the Liberals did not desire to destroy the army, but required greater efficiency at less expenditure.

The government accepted what he denominated as the "blue water" principle, namely, that the navy at its present strength was capable of defending Great Britain from invasion, and though this strong navy was a costly thing, it was very useful, as it made it possible to cut off much of what otherwise would be necessary army expenditure.

In pursuance of this principle of dependence on the navy, it had been decided that the armament stores constructed for the defence of London were unnecessary and would immediately be rooted up, some 300 guns mounted for defence purposes at various points along the coast would be swept away, the troops at Wei-Hai-Wei (China) would be withdrawn, and some colonial garrisons would be reduced.

These changes did not involve an enormous sum, but marked the beginning of a new era. The British army which would be required for overseas purposes must be of a high quality, which was not obtainable through conscription, and should be strictly limited in dimensions. The size of the army depended chiefly on policy.

Mr. Haldane stated that the nation would consider whether a reduction could not be made in the armament burden which was pressing on every civilized nation.

The secretary announced that by March 31 two army corps at home will have been completely retrained, the infantry receiving the short rifle which experts had declared to be the best weapon.

Continuing, the war minister said he thought that the northwest frontier of India was no longer endangered and later

he pointed out that Great Britain was not alone in spending enormous sums for the army. He instanced Germany and France, and added:

"The United States is a very efficient nation and confines itself to a regular army of 60,000 men. Nevertheless that army costs close to \$115,000,000."

Explaining the increase of \$88,710,000 in the cost of the army at present, compared with the cost in 1890, the war secretary said the personnel then was 156,174, while now it was 294,100.

In 1896 a soldier cost \$315, but now the cost was \$405. The average cost of an officer now was \$2,420, compared with \$2,220 in 1896. He also explained the increase in the cost of army reserve, militia, yeomanry and volunteers. In South Africa alone, he pointed out, the number of troops had been increased by 13,000, and each soldier there cost \$750 per year.

Great Britain, said the war minister, will never be able to reduce her striking force without providing some power of expansion behind it at home. He suggested as a possible device a system of dividing the period of training into two parts: one preliminary and elastic, giving men the elements of military training, and the other reserved for the period following an outbreak of hostilities, which would be devoted to more severe training. But all training must be voluntary. Anything like conscription would defeat its merits and the training should be decentralized and the work of the military and local government of the people themselves. Then no government would go to war unless the people supported them.

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BRITAIN SEEKS TARIFF FAVORS

Asks the United States for Favored Nation Treatment

REASONS ADVANCED States That She Should Be Better Treated Than Any Other Country as She Has No Trade Barriers—Doubtful if Roosevelt Can Make Concessions.

London, March 8.—Communications have passed between Great Britain and the United States respecting the former's contention that she should participate in the privileges granted to other nations under the Dingley act in return for the reciprocal concessions which Great Britain has made on similar representations to other countries granting the most favored nation treatment.

Great Britain also takes the ground that having no tariff she of all countries should be favorably treated commercially. It was stated in the house of commons yesterday that negotiations on this subject had been opened with the United States. This is incorrect. Thus far only communications have passed.

Roosevelt Can't Act? Washington, March 8.—The statement in the London despatch concerning Great Britain's contention for participation in the privileges granted other nations by the United States under the Dingley tariff act caused considerable interest here.

What reply may be made by this government to such representations it is not possible at this time to say. The United States has no commercial arrangement with Great Britain, as with other countries, which the president is enabled to extend to the benefit of certain concessions in matters affecting the customs duties.

Several of the speakers announced their opposition to the tariff, which was the subject of a resolution passed by the house of commons.

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TO BREAK UP THE "LINE STORES"

United States Willing to Take Joint Action With Canada

THEY ALL LINED UP Sewage Seemed to Be the Burning Question and Some Were Against It Going Into the River—N. B. Press Association Meets—Couple Divorced—Other News.

St. Stephen, N. B., March 8.—(Special)—A mass meeting of ratepayers for the discussion of civic affairs was held in the Opera House this evening. The attendance numbered about 200 persons, including several members of the legislature and a delegation from the St. John City Council, who are here on legislative business.

There are more than fifty "line stores" between Cornwall (Ont.) and Calais (N.B.). These places of business are erected on the boundary line with one portion of the building in Canada and the other in the United States. Goods are purchased in the cheapest markets and being continually smuggled from one country to the other.

This joint conference will endeavor to be the means of putting these law breakers out of business within the next few months.

Another thing which is receiving the attention of the Canadian customs department at present is the sardine business. Boats convey these fish from New Brunswick waters to Eastport without reporting at the custom house. The law will be strictly enforced in the future.

Large seizures of immoral souvenirs and French magazines are being made daily seized in the Canadian post offices.

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WANT KING TO VISIT CANADA

Resolution Up in Parliament (Thursday) Asking Their Majesties to Come

Think it Fitting They Should Be Present at Opening of Quebec Railway Bridge—Laurier Announces a Fall Session for Tariff Revision—Fielding Likely to Be Laid Up a Month Longer—Minister of Justice and R. L. Borden Have Similar Bills Introduced.

Ottawa, March 8.—(Special)—Hon. N. A. Belcourt gave notice today of the following address: To the King's Most Excellent Majesty Most Gracious Sovereign: "We, the members of the house of commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, beg to humbly convey to your majesty, with the assurance of our loyalty and devotion to your royal person, the expression of the desire and hope, long and fervently cherished by all British subjects inhabiting British North America, that your majesty would be graciously pleased to honor them with your majestic presence, and thereby enable them to offer their personal tribute of their unwavering attachment to the crown and the government of the empire, of their deep affection for your majesty's person and their profound admiration for those kindly virtues and truly humanitarian deeds which have earned for your majesty first place among the great sovereigns of the world."

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PRINCESS ENA JOINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Abjures Her Faith With Her Mother, King Alfonso and Other Notables as Witnesses.

San Sebastian, Spain, March 8.—Princess Ena of Battenberg was received into the Catholic church in the royal palace of Miramar, today, in the presence of Princess Henry of Battenberg, her mother; Queen Maria Christina, King Alfonso, the Infante Teresa and Isabella, the Infante Fernando, and ladies of the court. Bishop Hendrick of Nottingham (Eng.), officiated, assisted by the bishops of Sion and Victoria. Princess Ena will make her first communion tomorrow. After the ceremony Bishop Hendrick gave to King Alfonso an autograph letter from the Pope, and the King, the Queen mother and Princess Ena sent thanks to the holy father.

Beautiful gifts were presented to the princess. King Alfonso gave her a gold bracelet with a large sapphire, and an emerald medallion, and Queen Christina a prayer book.

A copy of the petition was forwarded to the consul, who found Young had been arrested and held as a witness; but there seemed to be no ground for the charge that Young had been treated more harshly than became necessary under the circumstances, with a view to his release.

It was after this report had been made that Young asked for the committee to sit on his case in Boston.

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