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LONDON, THURSDAY, JAN. 28.

A VETERAN OF THE PEN.

In the "History of Canadian Journalism," recently issued as a memorial of the fiftieth anniversary of the Canadian Press Association, Mr. Goldwin Smith has an article on leadership in which he says: "The greatest sensation that I remember ever being produced by a leader was one written by Bailey in the Times, when Peel came over from Protection to Free Trade."

The incident he refers to occurred in December, 1845! Even then—63 years ago—Goldwin Smith had made his mark in polemical literature in England. In Morley's "Life of Cobden" there is a reference to the distinguished service he rendered the Anti-Corn Law League. He is still wielding incisively the pen with which he stirred his countrymen during a period that now seems to be another age—before responsible government was established in Canada, or free trade in the mother country. He can recall the coronation of Queen Victoria, and he has talked with Addington, who was premier of Great Britain in 1801. He belonged to a literary coterie of half a century ago, which included such choice spirits as Tennyson, Carlyle, and Ruskin. Of this brilliant company he is the only survivor. The scholar of the Grange occupies a unique position in Canada, as a living link with the highest culture of the old world, and with a bygone era.

A REPLY TO LORD ROBERTS.

An address recently delivered by Mr. Haldane, secretary for war, before his constituents in East Lothian, was intended to allay public anxiety aroused by the alarmist speeches of Earl Roberts in the House of Lords.

The present military policy, Mr. Haldane said, rested upon command of the sea, which the Government meant to keep. He was not at all disturbed by Lord Roberts' suggestion that a surprise attack might be made on Britain, "by 200,000 people of a foreign nationality." He had good cause for believing that such an army could not get across the North Sea with Britain's preponderance of naval power so great. Besides, out of that total, only 150,000 would be fighting men. By the maintenance of the Cardwell system, the country is enabled to keep at home approximately the same number of units as there is abroad. The bringing from South Africa of four battalions of infantry, and a cavalry regiment as an addition to the home military strength means that in a few weeks there will be 118,000 men with the colors, and any invading army, even if it crossed the seas by aeroplanes, would be met by that body of highly-trained troops. In addition to these there is the reserve of regulars, which is very high today, and comprises men who have seen fighting and are more highly trained than any soldiers in the world. Of this reserve, there are now 134,000, besides 68,000 of the converted militia, making in all, with the special reserve, 320,000 regular soldiers. In the last three years, the reserve force has grown from 94,000 to about 200,000, and the result is an addition to the regular army of men who are prepared to mobilize and go across the seas, or to fight at home.

That addition enables the war office to mobilize six divisions, which could not have been done three years ago. By touching a button four of these divisions can be mobilized at once, and there are the weapons, stores, horses, and men to mobilize all six divisions and leave a surplus.

The growth of the territorial army, which replaces the Volunteers, has been remarkable. Though only in existence nine months that force on Jan. 1 had reached a strength of 297,000 of all ranks out of a total establishment of 317,000. Mr. Haldane is confident the entire force will be filled in eighteen months or two years.

Summed up, Britain's home defence force consists of 527,000 men, of whom 320,000 are regulars, and the remainder reserves and territorials—an army sufficient to meet any invading power. Mr. Haldane declares that so long as he is responsible no efforts will be lost to make the reorganization of the home defence as perfect as it can be made. It is hoped to build up behind the territorial force a reserve of those who have gone through that force. To meet a surprise attack there are six regular divisions of three brigades of infantry, each, and one cavalry division, with fourteen territorial divisions. There are thus twenty great divisions, equivalent to ten army corps, and Mr. Haldane is safe in saying that "no force that could be brought over while we maintain command of the sea could approach that in size."

TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN ONTARIO.

The minister of education, Dr. Pyne, announced a new policy at a little gathering of party friends around a dinner table at a Toronto cafe Monday night. A public meeting or a sitting of the Legislature would have been a more appropriate occasion, but the minister is no stickler for etiquette, in speech or otherwise. He promised that his department would establish technical schools, or continuation class schools where boys and girls over the age limit, who were employed during the day, might continue their education at night.

The greater part of Dr. Pyne's speech was an attack upon the Ottawa Government for not finding the money for technical education. Having recently and voluntarily increased its subsidies to all the provinces, the Federal Government may well regard as unreasonable a request from them for more money for a system over which it would have no control.

The administration at Toronto has had a full treasury, due in part to the federal bounty, and it cannot shirk its duty to deal with a matter over which the B. N. A. act gives it jurisdiction. Dr. Pyne admits that each province should formulate its own scheme of technical education, as technical schools must be adapted to the peculiar needs and conditions of each province. He would merely allow the Dominion Government to contribute to the cost. It is, of course, much pleasanter and easier for Governments to spend money than to find it.

Ontario is the premier manufacturing province of Canada. It should be in advance of the others in the provision for industrial training, but it cannot claim this distinction. Compared with some countries of Europe, and some states of the union, it is deplorably behind the times. The Government is to be commended for making a start, however belated. Confidence in the progressiveness of the education department had been rudely shaken by recent events.

Binns is not an heroic name, but it belongs to a hero—Binns of the Wireless.

Unhappily the city has made no provision for street-sprinkling in January.

The whole Province of Quebec is snowbound. In Ontario we are longing for snow to lay the dust.

The Ontario Legislature will tackle law reform again this session—unless its courage fails it once more.

Educationalists may well smile at the thought of Dr. Pyne initiating and directing a system of technical instruction. And even his advisers are the men who are trying to exhumate the letter "U."

Premier Whitney complains of Canada's lack of practical loyalty to the British Empire. The opponents of the British preference, who are mostly in Mr. Whitney's party camp, should put that in their pipes and smoke it.

The level crossing question is to be referred to the railway commission, which will probably rule that the cost of abolition must be shared between the railway companies and the municipalities. Isn't it dawning on this city that it missed a great opportunity two years ago?

HE SAID IT.
"Horace" remarked Mrs. Figgins, "we are going to have company at dinner, and I do wish you would brighten up and look less like an honored guest."

The company came, and, after a few preliminary coughs and winks, which were intended to announce to his wife that the witless was about to be portended, Mr. Figgins said timidly: "Mary."

"Yes, dear, what is it?" asked Mrs. Figgins, graciously.

"I have your hair on this evening."

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