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Mr Bryce  
on the War.

The learning and ability of the Hon. James Bryce, M.P., coupled with a reputation for learning and sound sense, are sufficient guarantee that his published views upon the subject will be received with respect, and accordingly among those who have criticised the Imperial Government on account of its South African policy and expressed views favorable to the cause and contention of the Boers, no one probably has been listened to by Englishmen with greater deference. It seems very evident, however, that many British statesmen and military leaders had but a very inadequate conception of the real state of affairs, both political and military, in South Africa, and it is very possible that Mr. Bryce's information as to the causes which led to the war was not so complete as to protect him wholly from mistake. Mr. Bryce very justly, of course, condemns the Jameson Raid and the failure of the British Government and Parliament to pronounce a strong condemnation upon Cecil Rhodes for his complicity in the raid. He suggests that the vast preparations for war on the part of the Transvaal Government were made because the Boers believed that the men who organized the raid had captured the Imperial Government. It seems, however, to be pretty clearly shown that the process of turning the Transvaal into an arsenal had begun before the raid occurred, and that it formed just such an excuse as was desired by an influential body of men in South Africa for the carrying forward of their schemes for Dutch supremacy. The London Chronicle, which on general political issues is opposed to the Salisbury-Chamberlain Government, discussing Mr. Bryce's views on the causes of the war, says: "The Government offered Mr. Kruger reasonable terms including a fresh guarantee of independence, and if Mr. Kruger thought that war was better than such a settlement, how can it be fairly maintained that he did not thrust the war upon us? Whether it was blundering suspicion or whether it was a fixed purpose inspired by confidence in the 'colossal armaments' and in a general rising in Cape Colony, Mr. Kruger's motive is plainly responsible for the conflict. His advocates do not seem to perceive that if their argument has any validity, it is an argument for letting Mr. Kruger have his own way because the raid was a criminal enterprise. Everybody who denounces the war as 'unjust' on our side talks as if the raid had morally put this country out of court. Because the legitimate agitation of the Outlanders had prompted Mr. Rhodes and Dr. Jameson to a sinister design which failed, and deserved to fail, therefore the Government ought to have refrained from exciting any more suspicions in Mr. Kruger's mind. They ought to have bowed deferentially to his prejudices and his armaments, left the Outlanders to their fate, and the peace of South Africa to suffer from constant unrest and intrigue. Meanwhile Mr. Kruger would have steadily pursued his great object of destroying the convention and some fine day, when we had an imbroglio elsewhere, we should have learned that the convention had been torn up and the Boers were ready to invade Natal if we ventured to remonstrate. Such a course of events might have suited some people; but it may be doubted whether even this halcyon dream of the way to 'retain South Africa' would have remained undisturbed. The British population of the Transvaal, greatly outnumbering the Boers, might have set about intriguing with a little more method than distinguished the Johannesburg reformers. They might have found their situation intolerable and attempted another rising. This would have been suppressed in blood; and then not only British South Africa but also every colony that flies our flag would have cried shame on the Imperial Government for permitting this outcome of the Boer ideal for the subjugation of the white majority."

The South African Situation. The views of military experts, formed at a distance from the scene of war, as to the facts and probabilities of a campaign, cannot be expected to represent the situation with more than some approach to correctness, and in many cases they fail even to do that. Among the deliverances of the military authorities in England, who have under-

taken from day to day to keep the people informed as to what the outcome of each successive situation was likely to be, there seems to be none whose strictures have evinced a more intimate knowledge of his subject and greater soundness of judgment than those of Mr. Spencer Wilkinson. The following observations of Mr. Wilkinson in respect to the present situation in South Africa and the effect which the reverses recently suffered by the Boers will have upon their powers of resistance and the course of the war, will be read with interest: "No doubt," said Mr. Wilkinson, "the chapter of British reverses is now closed. He would be a bold strategist who would now offer to the Boer leaders a plan of campaign promising ultimate success. Lord Roberts will soon have a force of 60,000 men. The Boers' commander-in-chief can now hope for but little from strategy. On his interior lines he is not strong enough, while containing one British army, to strike with effect against the other. He may possibly attempt to hold General Buller at the passes leading out of Natal, where a small force, at some risk to itself, can cause considerable delay. Meantime he may gather his forces in the Free State for resistance to Lord Roberts. It looks possible that the Boer forces may now collapse altogether, although that must not be counted upon. Lord Roberts, however, will soon have troops enough to deal with any guerilla warfare, and, altogether, there is no need for further uneasiness." The Imperial Government, however, evidently thinks that the time has not yet come when Great Britain can afford to relax her hand. Her military programme as unfolded by Lord Lansdowne in the House of Commons the other day, includes the sending out of 56,000 fresh soldiers in addition to the 30,000 now on their way, so that with these additions Lord Roberts will have a force of at least a quarter of a million. The estimates brought down by Lord Lansdowne exceed £61,000,000. An order has reached Woolwich arsenal for the construction of 224 new guns, from 3-pounders to 12-inch guns. Of these 140 are to be naval guns.

The Surrender of Cronje. On Tuesday of last week, after the forms of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR were on the press, the news reached St. John of the unconditional surrender of General Cronje and his force of about four thousand men. The news was received here, as in all parts of the Empire, with demonstrations of joy, as indicating a valuable success for the British arms and marking an important step toward the end of the war. For ten days the Boer General, with his little force, had held out against vastly superior numbers, enduring a terrible bombardment and repulsing well delivered infantry attacks with a stubborn bravery, fully sustaining the reputation of the Boers as indomitable fighters and compelling the admiration of their foes. The end came about day-break on Tuesday morning, and it is greatly flattering to the military pride of Canada to know that our own Canadian boys, who had borne themselves so bravely in the battle eight days before, had now a gallant and foremost part in bringing the argument with General Cronje to a conclusion. It will be remembered that the Boers occupied the bed of the river and the sides of its steep banks. They had entrenched their position with their usual skill and the natural cave-like openings in the banks at places afforded a safe shelter. The Boers had been able to withstand the most severe artillery fire that could be brought to bear upon them, and the only effective method of attack upon their position was along the river bed. By successive night rushes, in which the Shropshires, the Gordons and perhaps others had been engaged, the British infantry had gained an entrenched position within about 700 yards of that occupied by the Boers. On Monday night the post of honor in the forward rush was given to the Canadians, probably because of their reputation as riflemen. The result was that instead of stopping when an advance of 150 or 200 yards had been secured, according to the precedent of previous night rushes, the Canadians pushed forward until they were within less than a hundred

yards of the Boer trenches. Here, with the help of the Engineer corps, and by brave, hard work, for which the Maritime men are especially complimented, they entrenched themselves and held their position until daylight. Lord Roberts in his dispatches announcing the surrender of Cronje makes special mention of the Canadians, and says that their advance evidently clinched the matter, for at daybreak the Boer General surrendered unconditionally. This feat of arms which has won for our Canadian soldiers enthusiastic praise all over the Empire, was not without cost. The casualty list is not indeed as large as it was in the battle of the 18th, but it will cause anxiety for the wounded or grief for the dead in many Canadian homes. The list—which may be still subject to correction—gives 8 killed and 30 wounded. The wounds, which must have been received at short range, are likely in most cases to be serious, and a later report states that four or five of the wounded have since succumbed to their injuries. It is a matter of great thankfulness to the people of this country that the Boer leader recognized the futility of further resistance and surrendered. Had he determined still to fight, his force would probably have been destroyed, but it must have been at great cost to the attacking party, and the Canadians in the forefront of it would have suffered terribly. General Cronje and the men of his command have been sent as prisoners of war to Capetown. These, with others captured in the course of General Roberts' short campaign, make up in all about 5,000. Cronje had 15 guns, most of them light pieces of artillery, and these, with ammunition and camp supplies of some value, fell into the hands of the victors. It seems probable that a considerable part of the force that set out with Cronje from Spytfontein succeeded in escaping and perhaps in taking with them some heavy artillery. It is known also that a Boer force moved northward from Kimberly into the Transvaal country.

The Parliamentary Estimates. The estimates for the year ending June 30, 1901, were presented in the Dominion House of Commons by the Finance Minister, Hon. Mr. Fielding on Tuesday last. The amount asked for on account of consolidated fund is \$42,872,089, as compared with \$41,528,299, being the main estimate for the current year, or \$43,239,140, including supplementaries. The main estimate, therefore, for the coming fiscal year is \$366,150 less than the latter amount. The principal increases in the different branches of the service are \$142,000 for the Northwest government, \$447,000 for railways and canals \$48,285 for customs, \$83,000 for lighthouse and coast service, \$23,916 for steamship subventions and \$50,000 for post office. The decreases are: Public works, \$1,219,613; Militia, \$54,338; miscellaneous, \$69,123; ocean and river service, \$38,000; and Yukon territory, \$21,870. The amount for capital account required is placed at \$6,195,402, a decrease of \$1,682,332 over the amount for the current year; so that there is \$2,048,000 less required between ordinary and capital expenditure than for the current year, but it is more than likely that the supplementaries to be asked for yet will cover this amount. There is an item of \$150,000 for the taking of census and an additional \$50,000 for the Paris exhibition. In immigration there is an increase of \$34,500, making a total of \$395,000. In militia items chargeable to income there is an increase of \$28,198 for pay allowances, \$3,000 for salaries, \$75,000 for warlike and other necessities, \$16,000 for Esquimaux defence, and \$5,000 for general service medals. For the annual drill of the militia the estimate is increased from \$300,000 to \$425,000. There is a new vote of \$80,000 for the construction and equipment for a steel light ship for Lurcher shoal, supplied with an electric light plant and compressed air siren. There is also a grant of \$92,000 to Northwest government to enable them to restore public works destroyed by floods. An additional \$22,000 is to be voted for Yukon administration, salary and expenses. An additional \$450,000 will be required in operating the Intercolonial and \$25,000 in operating the P. E. I. Railway, and an additional \$48,000 for salaries and allowances to the post office service.