

## The Colonist.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1899.

### THE WAR.

Ladysmith appears to be safe for the present and to be able to take care of itself until Gen. Buller either comes to the rescue or makes such a movement elsewhere as will counteract the operations of Gen. Joubert's force in Natal. Looking at it from a civilian's point of view, good policy seems to dictate that Gen. Buller shall try conclusions with the Boers in Natal, at least sufficiently to permit Gen. White to retire from Ladysmith in safety. The destruction of the railway in the Orange Free State will render a rapid advance in that direction impossible, and it is always possible that Gen. Joubert may be able to defeat Gen. White's force before Gen. Buller can accomplish much in the way of invasion. If he could do so, and then move his victorious army down to Durban, the Boers would have access to the sea, which is one of the things to be prevented. Moreover, it is highly important that we should not permit the enemy to enter any further upon our territory. As the despatches say, Gen. White cannot hold out indefinitely, which does not mean that he cannot do so for some weeks yet, but only that the end of his supplies, including ammunition, cannot be very far off. It seems highly important, therefore, that he shall be relieved without delay.

We do not attach much importance to the rumor that Gen. White is short of ammunition for the heavy guns brought up from the Powerful. Doubtless he deems it expedient to husband his supply, especially as the Boer fire is doing very little damage. Neither do we place any reliance upon the Amsterdam story of 600 of our troops being either killed or wounded a week ago. If Lord Salisbury knew of such a serious loss he would hardly have refrained from mentioning it, or at least hinting at it, at the Mansion House dinner.

The official confirmation of the reports that the Boers do not respect a flag of truce is unpleasant reading, and there will now be a general disposition to believe the very numerous and serious statements of this nature that have been made.

The arrival of troopships at the Cape, which has now fairly begun, will greatly change the face of things. The despatches say that even with his reinforcements Gen. Buller will find it difficult to drive the Boers out of Natal without great loss of life. As Napoleon once said, "One cannot make omelets without breaking eggs," but we fancy that Gen. Buller will be strategic enough to discover a way of turning Joubert's position. Moreover, when he once regains control of the railway for the whole distance to Ladysmith, which can now only be a matter of a short time, he will be able to send forward plenty of long-range guns, and with these he can render the defence works thrown up by the Boers during the last month of resistance. It is only the comparative weakness of our artillery on the spot that has prevented Gen. White from driving the enemy away.

### SALISBURY'S SPEECH.

Lord Salisbury's Mansion House speech was a notable deliverance. The remark about feature about it was the frankness and its resoluteness. No one can give the slightest excuse for misunderstanding the attitude of the British government in regard to South Africa. Lord Salisbury appreciates the gravity of the task in hand and the great responsibility which Great Britain has been forced to assume, but there is not a hint of wavering. The unpleasant duty is to be discharged. There is to be no shirking. When Great Britain has settled with the South African republics there will be no question open to cause trouble in the future.

The references of the Premier to the reports of foreign interference is the sort of thing that people like to read. The whole world is informed that Great Britain will not tolerate any interference; but the additional statement is made that no nation contemplates such a thing. This talk of foreign interference emanated from people whose ideas of the manner in which international disputes are conducted are extremely hazy. For the most part they originated in the United States whence they were cabled to Europe. The average United States newspaper man has very little conception of how nations conduct their affairs. He has in his mind the senate of his own country, which with a view to influence votes at an approaching election undertakes to ensure first one government and then another. He does not stop to think that if foreign nations interfered in such matters as these engaging attention in South Africa, the world would be in constant turmoil. Well-informed people never saw any reason to expect intervention, and doubtless Lord Salisbury in referring to the matter meant his observations as much for the ears of Presidents Kruger and Steyn as for any one else.

The statement as to the future of South Africa is as explicit as any one has a right to expect. It is never wise to jump before you have reached the stile, and though the stile is in sight there is some distance and considerable rough country to be covered before we get there. In the meanwhile we know the general lines on which it is proposed ultimately to deal with the South African question, and it is clear that the two republics will not be allowed to have an independent existence, but that British paramountcy will take a form that will leave no question as to its scope.

The references to Germany are calculated to create a profound impression in

Europe, for they show the existence of an Anglo-German rapprochement, which means much for the preservation of peace. Especially is this true, in view of the attitude taken by Great Britain and the United States towards each other. Lord Salisbury felt able to speak in terms of congratulation of the relations between our Empire and the great Republic.

Lord Wolseley's remarks in regard to the preparedness of the army are highly satisfactory. Only a month had elapsed since Kruger sent out his ultimatum and yet the commander-in-chief was able to say that an army of 53,000 men had been mobilized and that 44,000 of them were even then on their way to the seat of war. In point of fact at the time Lord Wolseley was speaking the first troops ships had already arrived at the Cape. He made the further statement that orders had gone out for the mobilization of another army division, and if a third is needed it can be promptly supplied. The value of this information is very great. It means that without any extraordinary effort and simply by trusting to the volunteer system, we can put in the field ready to go to any quarter of the globe, a complete modern army of 150,000 men, and this without calling on India and the colonies for assistance. Not only could we do this, but our navy could sweep the seas and destroy the seaports of any hostile power. This statement gives great emphasis to Lord Salisbury's remark about foreign interference not being tolerated.

### THE MANSION HOUSE FUND.

The volunteer committee was able yesterday to cable to London the sum of £100 as a first contribution from the citizens of Victoria to the Mansion House fund for the widows and orphans of soldiers, who fall in the war now in progress in South Africa, and for such other purposes as are embraced in the trust upon which the fund is being contributed. We think that the people of Victoria will greatly appreciate the fact that this city has been the first in the colonies to send forward a contribution to this fund. We also think that there will be very general satisfaction felt at the proposal to have a second entertainment of a character similar to that of Thursday night. The great advantage of this means of raising contributions is that it enables every one to do a little, thereby making the fund a popular one in the strictest sense of the word. Several persons threw \$5.00 bills into the sheet in the drill hall. Their names are not known and the donors did not want them to be known. The committee have opened an account in the Bank of British Columbia into which funds can be paid by any one who so desires. The committee took this action because something of the kind seemed necessary and contributions have already been received.

The Mayor has given notice that he will open funds in the several city banks for the same object. His Worship was invited by the Colonist to take the lead in the movement which led to Thursday night's concert and also by Mr. Ridge-way Wilson; but he said he had not time to attend to it. It is satisfactory that His Worship has since been able to find time to assist in giving effect to a movement which the assemblage in the drill hall showed to be an exceedingly popular one.

### VICTORIA MEETING.

In his speech at the meeting held in Victoria West on Thursday evening, the Rev. D. MacRae said that the newspapers were the quarter to which the people of that portion of the city must look for justice, and although he did not say so in as many words, clearly implied that in his opinion the press had not done its full duty in this particular. We think we shall have to plead guilty but this has not been because of any lack of appreciation of the right of the people across the Arm to fair play, but solely because other matters have been engrossing all the attention which the Colonist has been able to give to city matters. We shall endeavor to make amends.

One of the matters spoken of at the meeting was the desirability of providing some suitable recreation ground in that part of the city. We do not wish to commit the Colonist to any definite plan of doing this; but we have no hesitation in saying that the idea ought to receive the best consideration that can be given it. Possibly such a recreation place as would suit the residents of the western section would be sufficiently convenient for those of the northern section of the city, and it might be possible so to arrange it that a water frontage on the Arm could be obtained, which would make the pleasure ground of value to the whole city. This matter will be the better for a little examination. In this connection mention may be made of the fact that if the city is to grow, the need for pleasure grounds will become much greater than it now is, and there will be no time when the land required for such purposes can be obtained any more cheaply than now.

The residents of Victoria West deserve congratulations on the excellent spirit displayed in Thursday night's meeting, and we think we can promise them that hereafter they will have no cause to complain that their legitimate demands do not receive attention from the newspapers.

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### THE WAR.

At least five troop ships have arrived at the Cape and three of them have gone to Durban. The first class cruiser Terrible is also at Durban and some of her men with guns have gone forward to the front. This is the beginning of operations for the relief of Ladysmith. The despatch in Friday morning's Colonist saying that an advance had been ordered from Etourat indicates that the movement to re-open communication with Gen. White began several days ago. If the bridge at Coleos is all right, Joubert will find a force of some 10,000 men with heavy artillery ready to co-operate with Gen. White, and this will wholly change the complexion of things. This excellent result ought to be reached during the week unless something unforeseen happens. We look for early news to the effect that communication has been re-opened with Ladysmith.

Yesterday morning's despatch that there had been a skirmish near Belmont indicates that a force is advancing for the relief of Kimberley. Belmont is north of the Orange river and rather more than half way between Dr. Aard and Junction and Kimberley. The despatch says that the skirmish took place about four miles east of Belmont. Judging from the map, this would be within Free State territory.

We do not see why the Associated Press correspondent should fix November 28 as the earliest date at which anything can be done for the relief of Gen. White. Gen. Lord Methuen has a very considerable force now at his disposal and he will be steadily in receipt of reinforcements. The bridge over the Tugela at Coleos was safe at last accounts and there were no Boers in the immediate vicinity. We assume that the force reported yesterday to have gone forward with guns is temporarily for the protection of this point. The same correspondent thinks it is about time that the column that was advancing on Pietermaritzburg through Zululand was heard from. That any such force is on the way is largely a matter of surmise. A report to this effect was sent out about ten days ago, but nothing confirmatory has been heard, and it seems unreasonable to suppose that an army can be marching through a thickly settled region like Zululand and nobody hear anything about it.

### THE POLICE.

Those persons who read the long report of the proceedings of the police commission in yesterday's Colonist—and every voter who has not already read it ought to do so without delay—will bear us out in saying that the Colonist was justified in demanding a more thorough investigation. We did not take this matter up until we were satisfied that there was good reason for so doing. It may be remembered that at the outset we told the police commissioners that if they did not probe matters to the bottom, the Colonist would do it regardless of consequences. We are more than gratified to be relieved of the disagreeable duty of taking the subject up. Persons with experience in municipal matters prophesied that any attempt to reform the police department was foredoomed to failure. We did not think so. We believed that the X-rays of newspaper criticism would give the necessary stimulus to healthy public opinion, and there is no body, however it may arrogate to itself exclusive powers, that can in a free community defy public opinion.

We wish to compliment Mr. Bradburn, the city solicitor, upon his manly stand for a public investigation. Mr. Bradburn knows that nothing else will satisfy the public, and he knows also that the police commissioners cannot in justice to themselves and to the department over which they preside undertake to have any other sort of an inquiry. The Mayor was good enough to say that the commissioners will hear enough about hole-in-the-corner investigations. We can tell them that the public have heard quite too much about them, and that the commissioners will hear of them whenever they are held. We do not wish to be misunderstood in this connection. Certain purely private or personal matters may properly be discussed by the commissioners with closed doors; but these are in a class by themselves. Speaking for the Colonist, and we think we can also do for the Times, we say that there is no disposition on the part of the newspapers to make public matters which in the interest of justice ought to be kept secret. The police commissioners will find the newspapers ready to co-operate with them in that regard. But there is another class of subjects which call for publicity, and these the Colonist will insist shall be made public.

The Mayor at the last meeting of the commissioners referred to something which appeared in the Colonist, stating that he did so as a matter of privilege. We hear this expression used sometimes in the City Council also. We take this means of informing the various governing bodies of the city that they have no "privilege" whatever in respect to what the newspapers say about them. The assertion of this "privilege" is something which we do not propose to stand. We know and are willing to respect the "privilege of parliament," which extends to permit parliament to prohibit any reference to its proceedings; but we wish to deny in the most emphatic way that any municipal body, the city council, the police commissioners or any one else, can assert "privilege."

One of the matters discussed at the meeting of the commissioners was the conduct of Constable Clayards in the La Cote case. What transpired in this case was certainly scandalous. Officer Clayards and Sergeant Walker flatly contradicted each other on material points. The rankest kind of perjury was

committed, but what seemed most to trouble the commissioners was Clayards' insubordination. The Mayor made the extraordinary remark that it would have been better for Clayards to have refused to give evidence than to take the course he did. It would be interesting to know what this means. Does His Worship wish to be understood as saying that where an officer believes that another officer is perjuring himself and is called to give evidence in the case, it is his duty to absent himself rather than contradict a brother policeman on oath? We dispute the proposition that a policeman or any one else has a right to refuse to give evidence. If Clayards displayed animus against Walker he did wrong and deserves to be reprimanded, but even if he felt this animus he would have no right to keep off the witness stand. What the public is most concerned with is not whether Clayards conduct himself in the police court as a city policeman ought to, but whether it is to be understood that a member of the police force is to stand by and see another testify to what he knows to be false and not to tell the truth when asked about it. It may be that the commissioners did not create the impression which they intended to convey, but certainly the report of their proceeding renders the supposition possible that the gravamen of Clayards' offence was his flat contradiction of Walker, even though he may have been telling the truth in contradicting him.

The Chief of Police certainly did not appear in a very good light at the meeting. In dealing with the matters relating upon him the commissioners displayed good judgment, for it will certainly be better to have a formal inquiry than it would have been to have summoned Clayards then and there and let him tell his story. They did not know apparently just what they ought to do, at which we are not surprised, for the matter was in a sense sprung upon them. They cannot do better than act on the Mayor's proposition that there should be an early and thorough investigation, with the additional proviso suggested by Mr. Bradburn that the investigation shall be public. The citizens of Victoria will be satisfied with nothing else.

The chief of police in his report asked for two more detectives and the detectives also made a similar request. It is certainly a reasonable one. We think the present detectives do their duty well, but there is a limit to the ground that they or any two men can cover. In speaking of the numerical strength of the force, mention ought again to be made of the fact, which was brought out anew at the meeting of the commissioners, that the city is insufficiently patrolled. We think the reference in the report of the detectives to the advice said to have been given them by Mr. Bradburn should have been omitted. It is not desirable that the legal advice given city officers by the city solicitor should be made public, except by the report of the solicitor himself. If this rule were followed there would be less chance of erroneous impressions being created.

The impression which the report of the meeting leaves upon the mind of the reader is that the whole police establishment from the commission down recognizes that things have got into a very bad way, and that each member of it is disposed, if he can, to shift the blame upon someone else. The Colonist suggests that the only true way out of the difficulty is a thorough public investigation. This will put the blame where it belongs and bring about a much more healthy condition of affairs.

### WHERE IT TAKES A MAN.

Any one can be a soldier when he's not here. But wear a brilliant uniform and line up for review. Any one can grasp a musket and march proudly down the street. When an admiring crowd is before him, and the music's loud and sweet; But when the trumpet sounds for war, and drum and screaming die Betoken grim forebodings of the coming quarter's strife. And amid the cannon's roaring, when you see the foe in sight, It takes a man to stand in line and face the coming fight.

When the sun is shining brightly on a cloudless summer's day, And the waves are lapping in a calm and peaceful way; When the breezes softly ripple and the sails are held in quietude, Any one can be a sailor and parade the quarter-deck. But when the storm king mutters and the angry billows roll, And the sails are heavily flapping, striking terror to the soul, And when the vessel tosses and the seas run mountain high, It takes a man to guide the ship and winds and waves defy.

You can live a life of pleasure if the birds sing all the day, And the skies are blue above you, melting like the clouds away; If no gloomy shadows hover round your sunshine to dispel, And all doubts and fears forever from your mind you will expel, But when sorrows overtake you, and you hear a heavy load, And obstructions rise before you as you tread the rocky road, When dearest friends desert you in your keenest hour of pain, It takes a man to make a stand and struggle on again.

Any one can follow blindly in the surging, sweeping throng, Pressing on like a leader, rushing aimlessly along; It is easy to go forward if the rest are going, too. You can do with zealous ardor what you see the others do, But to leave the crowd behind you, and to dare to stand alone, And to face the taunts of others, and the truth and right to own, Standing firm, though surrounded—save by God Almighty's hand—Taken a man to stand for right against the foe to make a stand.

—E. A. Brinsford, in Buffalo Illustrated Express.

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The

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Detectives' Joint report on Gamblers

Excusing Opponent, Constable Involves

City police affairs "up" appear to be on the order of the day. The police special meeting last decided upon an inquiry into the conduct of the report of the department—where friendly advice or warning to Bradburn that he was not satisfied with any investigation it was a commissioner should the date, place and manner be left for subsequent consideration. In the meanwhile, the force is being increased, and Blackstock is at the place of two men, special officers O'Connell, each with considerable police work in the city. In his disappointment, standing by Johnston, he has the option of the regular staff. One of the new constables takes the beat from the city boundary at the Jubilee hospital, proposed to patrol Victoria greater part of the night. Constable Carter was ordered to the other with a wide radius.

Mayor Redfern presiding, Commissioner Blackstock, Mr. Solicitor Bradburn and Sheppard. The meeting until after 8:30, by which time the Commissioner had the newspaper men notified of the meeting. Before proceeding to the meeting of the evening, attention, as a matter of fact, in the Colonist, was contained in the fact that "Another matter of connection with city Constable Abel's position known for weeks to charges to prefer in police direction, but from the constable's charges before, by advice gone to the with whom he had on days ago. The result with interest. Chief Sheppard also formal proceedings to the effect that the Messrs. Wood and passed the medical gone on duty. The further gratifying Constable Wood found ex-Sergeant Walker's Constable Blackstock, largely of the same as Abel. Sergeant Redd the same time would find him if he resigned, but only involved a suit and a sergeant's uniform Redgrave.

### EX-SERGEANT

The letter from ex-sergeant Redgrave to the Colonist of yesterday, under of new business effect that, contrary to the newspapers, he asked for his resignation, or the chief of police, and that the first intimation officially of any of his services was in a commission clerk's notice of his dismissal. Had he been asked to resign, as reported in the press, he would have been asked for a resignation. Against him, the contrary had been handled a paper notice of his dismissal, therefore would ask him that he be furnished with charges against him, dismissal was based, so that a fair chance to reply to his character.

As for one statement, the letter, Commissioner sought information, that he had not his resignation would be the board. Was this of Police he certainly by the commission to "I notified him," "You did, yourself," "Yes, your worship," "I told him it was not that asked for his resignation, if he resigned, salary in lieu of one he said he wouldn't observe the Mayor, right to dismiss with charges against that Commissioner McMillan would perhaps meet if ex-Sergeant Walker