

BRITAIN'S BUDGET; THE NEW TAXES.

The South African War Has So Far Cost £148,000,000.

TAXES THAT WILL PAY COST.

A Graduated Scale of Sugar Duties Imposed—West Indian Sugar Not Exempt—Export Duty on Coal—The Income Tax Now Made 14 Pence in the Pound—Sixty Million Pounds to be Borrowed by Means of Consols—The Transvaal Not to Taxed.

BRITAIN'S FINANCIAL POSITION. Past Year. Estimated revenue... Total revenue... Expenditure... War expenditure... Deficit... Current Year. Estimated revenue... Estimated expenditure... Estimated deficit... New Taxation. Income tax increase... Sugar... Export duty on coal... Total... Income Tax—An increase of 2 pence is imposed, making a total of 14s 2d.

London cable report—Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Chancellor of the Exchequer, delivered his anxiously-awaited budget speech in the House of Commons this afternoon. The changes in the tariff are important, and are designed to meet the large war expenditure.

The Chancellor rose at 4.18 p. m., amidst rounds of cheers, and commenced his statement. His opening sentence was not promising. "During the last five years," said the Chancellor, "we have been invariably able to congratulate the House on a general increase in the prosperity of the country, but the year 1900, especially the last six months, showed symptoms of a change. Our foreign trade during the year considerably increased, but in value rather than in volume."

Revenue Exceeded Estimates. Nevertheless, the revenue for the past year had shown no signs of decrease, and the Chancellor's receipts showed a surplus of £2,865,000 over the estimate. He was bound to say, however, that the excess had been due to forestalling of dutiable articles.

Some Decrease of Revenue. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach then proceeded to review the various items of revenue, mentioning that the revenue from beer was £4,000,000 less than the estimate. "That decrease," said the Chancellor of the Exchequer, "is probably attributable to the fact that very many beer drinkers are in South Africa, and also to the increase in the spending power of the people, owing to the high price of coal. Experience has shown that we have practically reached the limit in the profitable taxation of spirits. The receipts from the death duties were £1,500,000 below those of the previous year, but the prolongation of the war and the absence of business on the stock exchange were responsible for the unsatisfactory yield from stamps. In noting that the yield from the income tax was £1,150,000 above the estimate, the Chancellor of the Exchequer remarked that in twelve years past had been increased by no less than £120,000,000, a fact that he hoped reached a later part of his speech.

Effect of the Sugar Tax. "The effect of the proposal on the price of sugar is doubtful, as the price of sugar is governed by the bounty system. The great bulk of the imports of sugar comes from bounty-giving countries. The bounty system is that a country giving a bounty encourages production within its borders, and at the same time does its best to restrict consumption by its own people by every possible means. The result is that there is an enormous surplus which has to find a foreign market, and this country, under the present circumstances, is the only market. Therefore, it is quite conceivable, unless, of course, the bounty-giving countries either reduce the area of their sugar production or lower their duties on sugar for the benefit of their own population, both of which actions would mean the abolition of the bounty system—that the real result of the last tax, although at first the price might rise and consumption consequently be reduced, would be that there would be such an inflow into this country of bounty-giving sugars, unable to go elsewhere, that the price might be brought down."

real injury to the coal trade. Even supposing that the export of coals checked, I am not sure that even that result will be an evil. From this source I expect to receive an aggregate of £11,000,000 from new taxation. "My final balance sheet will be: From taxation, a revenue of £125,200,000; from non-taxation, £21,050,000; total of £146,250,000. I propose to reduce the expenditure, by again suspending the sinking fund, to £182,962,000. This shows a deficit of £36,707,000, to which must be added £1,250,000 for the fresh debt I have to borrow. I must ask the House to give me borrowing powers of £38,000,000. In order to finance the Exchequer I ask power to borrow £60,000,000 by means of consols.

Will Not Tax the Transvaal. "As to obtaining contributions from the Transvaal, Sir David Barbour's reports are not encouraging at present. I think the House will see the war has brought that country to the verge of ruin. (Opposition cheers greeted this remark.) This can no longer be considered. The small war has cost £148,000,000, double the cost of the Crimean war. There was £67,000,000 of the unfunded debt redeemed within the next ten years.

"I have tried to put before the House a true account of our financial position for the present and immediate future. In our time no Chancellor of the Exchequer has had so difficult a task, and none has had a more indignant audience. I have not laid proposals before the House with the view of gaining transient popularity, but I have endeavored to establish a principle of contribution by the whole community to the burdens of the State."

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach concluded at 6.44 p. m., amidst loud applause, having spoken two hours and 26 minutes. Sir William Vernon Harcourt complimented the Chancellor of the Ex-



SIR MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH Chancellor of the British Exchequer.

chequer on the ability he had shown, declaring that his speech was characterized by honesty, a quality very much lacking in the conduct of the war, in telling the House and country the truth in regard to the position. The budget, continued Sir William, was but a chapter in the disastrous, ruinous history of the war. It was proposed to borrow altogether £127,000,000 more, four times as much as was borrowed for the Crimean war.

"We're living in an age of newspaper finance," said Sir William, "and of increased expenditures. We cannot go on without involving this country in financial ruin. The fashionable doctrine of the day is consumption and protection; does anybody believe that this increase of expenditure will not go on?" Sir William argued that England was not as strong now as she was at the close of the French war, and declared, in conclusion, that it was the most disastrous statement that the Exchequer had ever made.

Is Ireland Benefited? After the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer Mr. John Redmond, the Nationalist leader, asked what Ireland had in the war which led to this extraordinary, disastrous and disgraceful financial situation. He protested against fresh taxation, and proposed a duty on refined sugar of four shillings and twopence a hundredweight. A half penny per pound would be four shillings and eight pence, so a margin of six pence is left to cover the customs, handling, and a tax of four shillings and two pence should increase the retail price more than a half penny per pound.

MORE BOERS CAPTURED

Also Horses, Cattle, Wagons and Ammunition.

SURRENDER OF BURGHERS.

Gen. French Sick and Will Take Short Rest—DeWet Has Few Followers—Hardships Experienced at Johannesburg—Krugers Got Good News.

London, April 21.—In a despatch to the War Office, dated yesterday, Gen. Kitchener reports that the captures since April 16th, by Blood, Benson, Plummer, Kitchener and Benson have been 81 prisoners, 100,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 200 horses and numerous wagons and cattle. Twenty Boers surrendered.

DeWet's Few Followers. London, April 21.—A despatch to a news agency here from Harrismith, under date of yesterday, locates Gen. De Wet near Kroonstad, and says he has few followers, and is unable to recruit a sufficient force to make an offensive movement. There have been numerous surrenders of starving Boers.

Embassy to Kruger. Amsterdam, April 21.—An embassy from Gen. Botha to President Kruger who left the commandos in February, arrived yesterday at Hilversum, where President Kruger is living. The embassy brought encouraging messages to the effect that the Boers in abundance, but are very poorly provided with boots and shoes. A train captured recently near Pratorias yielded an enormous quantity of cartridges.

Sauer's Brother. Cape Town, April 21.—A brother of ex-Minister Sauer has been convicted of being a ringleader of the rebels in the Cape Colony. Sentence in his case was deferred.

Rank Not Merit. New York, April 21.—A special cable despatch to the New York Tribune from Mr. I. N. Ford, dated London, 11 a. m., says: "In clubbing yesterday the rewards for services in South Africa formed the principal topic of conversation. Regret was general that there had not been shown greater discrimination in drawing up the list. No fault was found with Lord Roberts, but the custom which has long obtained of apportioning rewards in accordance with rank rather than merit was freely condemned. It is evident that red tape has not yet become a thing of the past in the War Office, seeing that officers whose names have become household words through the British Empire for conspicuously brilliant performances against the Boers, and on whom Lord Roberts' own army bestowed special commendations are classed with others of less notable quality."

Gen. French Ill, and Will Rest. London, April 22.—A despatch to the Times from Pretoria says that the General is slightly indisposed, and it has been recommended that he take a short rest at his headquarters. He has therefore returned to Johannesburg from the south-western front. The Intelligence Department reports that a large percentage of Boers in the district where the largest commandos are collected are without horses.

The attractive subject of peace negotiations is again occupying some of the correspondents. The Times' Cape Town says it emphatically states that further overtures from the Boers would not cause surprise. A despatch to the Times from London says it appears to be a fact that Mrs. Botha, wife of the Boer commandant-general, has lately been very busy traveling backwards and forwards with verbal messages between her husband and Gen. Kitchener.

Training Recruits. London, April 21.—The War Office announces the appointment of a committee to consider the education of candidates for commissions in the army, and the system of training at Woolwich and Sandhurst, and to report whether changes are desirable. The Right Hon. Aretas Akers-Douglas, M. P., is Chairman of the commission, whose members include Lieut.-Col. Arthur Lee, M. P., who was British military attaché with the American army in the Spanish war, and Rev. Edmond Walfre, headmaster at Eton.

Johannesburg Hardships. Lorenzo Marques, April 21.—In Johannesburg at present millionaires are the only people who could live with any degree of comfort, and it is described as having been in the past. As examples of the prices of provisions, it may be mentioned that potatoes are £2 a bag, and fat mutton £5 a hundred pounds. Everything else is on the same scale.

Of social life in Johannesburg, Gen. French says: "The theatres are closed, and with the exception of an occasional concert at the Wanderers', which gives only a faint idea of what the Wanderers' used to be, there is nothing to break the dull monotony. The Wanderers' football ground is a huge hospital, and there are evidences on all hands of the horrors of war. The few hotels that are open have an apologetic sort of look, and the choice of liquors is very small. An old Johannesburger, who had fought his way back, asked for a whiskey and soda at his favorite place of retirement, and was much chagrined to find that if he wished for liquor he would have to decide between whisky and liqueurs. The hotels were not only purvey what food they buy on the permits allowed to them for residents in the hotels, but they were also suffering from lung disease. There is also an epidemic of horse sickness among the Rand, and uniformity of color in tone, and consisted in agreeing that the Dutch refugees, who are stationed at the race course and all around the Rand, should be allowed to buy the best of things. They are, it is said, not permitted to wait for anything, and are even allowed tennis courts and croquet to while away the time.

The kindness with which the British appear to be treating the Dutch refugees in some cases altogether unnecessary. For instance, a gentleman had been applicants for work both Dutch and penniless. Against his inclination he gave them a job, as they seemed to be in need of it. Next morning they came, but not to work. They were now getting provisions free, and did not require it. Another case was that of a woman who, being in want of a servant, thought that the best way to get one was to offer her a job at the race course she would have no difficulty in getting one of these; but one and all refused service with a Britisher, although they have no hesitation in accepting relief from the same quarter.

Among the many trials of the present residents of Johannesburg is the necessity and permit business. To begin with, a residential pass from the district commissioner is necessary. Then there is a night permit; then a permit to ride a bicycle. There are only for Johannesburg proper. Should any one desire to go further or to be out later, a special permit is necessary. Then a permit is required to hire furniture, to have a dance, and so on ad infinitum. No wonder there was a rush for commissions in the Rand Rifles, when an officer requires none of these permits can carry any whiskey by the case at the Rand rifle store.

A Pro-Boer View. Grand Rapids, Mich., April 20.—Mr. Montagu White has just returned from Europe, and writes to the local Transvaal League saying that the Boer advisers in Europe are strongly opposed to any settlement involving a surrender of independence. "Still less," he says, "would they counsel surrender because time is the very essence of the situation. Reports from General Botha and the other fighting Generals at the beginning of February were encouraging and indicate that unless a settlement is effected war will be of long continuation. Even the special correspondent of the London Times estimates that it will last another year. The burghers are carefully hoarding their ammunition, of which they still have a generous supply, and there is no dearth of food, while the men in the field are by this time almost seasoned veterans. The spirit of determination to continue the struggle is indomitable, and too strongly urge our friends to treat the various rumors detrimental to the Boer cause with suspicion. The absurd reports about DeWet going insane and the Boers being hopeless should be dismissed at once."

SONS REFUSE TO SEE HER.

Blow to Princess Chimay Makes Her Wince.

RIGO IS TIRED OF HER TOO.

Paris, April 22.—Clara Ward, with her gypsy husband, Rigot, spent ten days here on their way from Egypt to London, where they now are. The Princess De Chimay wept bitterly, when the two boys by her first husband declined to see her. They are now good-looking lads and their action was quite voluntary. Their condemnation of her wild elopement has evidently cut her deeper than the manifold disgust of the civilized world. Mrs. Rigot denies the newspaper story that she is the mother of twins, saying she has no children by Rigot.

In the presence of the princess Rigo confirmed her statements that they had made arrangements to appear in a Paris music hall next fall. In London they expected to sign immediately for an engagement for May and June, either at the Alhambra or the Empire. The managements just now, she said, are trying to outbid each other. Rigo, who is really a remarkable violinist, will play solos and be accompanied by the whole orchestra. The princess, who can't sing or act, will appear conspicuously in a box. This being advertised, is expected to prove a sufficient attraction. The princess won't appear under \$100 a night.

WAS CANDY POISONED?

Montreal Girl Ate Some Which She Picked Up and Died.

Montreal, April 21.—Angeline Couillard, the 13-year-old daughter of Francois Couillard, of St. Henri, came home on Friday morning half an hour after school started. She told her mother that she was tired and aching with pain, and stated that she had eaten a piece of candy which she had found on the street. About noon she became unconscious, and died at 6 o'clock in the evening. Coroner McMahon was called and after enquiring into the circumstances thought it was not necessary to call a jury. A quantity of poisoned candy has been placed on certain streets in the vicinity of the city to kill dogs.

Percy Griffin, one of the children in the house at 405 Ossington avenue, Toronto, which is under quarantine, was removed to the small hospital yesterday afternoon. This makes six cases in the past house.

THIS CRIMINAL DOCCUMENT