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SCARCITY OF TEACHERS FOR THE SCHOOLS OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

An Important Matter Dealt With by Chief Superintendent of Education, Dr. Inch, in His Annual Report--His Suggestions for a Remedy.

Considerable comment has been made on the matter of scarcity of school teachers in New Brunswick. The situation and the opinion of the chief superintendent of education, Dr. Inch, is given here, from his annual report. Dr. Inch says:

"By reference to the Normal School report, it will be seen that the average enrolment of candidates for the teaching profession during the last 10 years was 273; but as a portion of those enrolled were already licensed teachers who were seeking advance of class, it may be estimated that from 240 to 250 new candidates present themselves each year. This number would provide for vacancies caused by the annual withdrawal of about one-eighth of the total number of teachers employed, and this proportion, under ordinary circumstances, ought to be sufficient to meet the requirements of the schools.

"But under existing conditions a much larger proportion than 12½ per cent. of trained teachers of the higher classes seek and obtain other employments. There are now many more avenues of activity than formerly, opening up before educated and energetic young people of both sexes, and these new fields of usefulness give promise of much better financial rewards and their cultivation is attended with less nervous strain and self-denial that are usually associated with the charge of a country school. The inevitable results are the withdrawal annually from the teaching profession of hundreds of our best qualified teachers and the consequent closing of the schools or, what is scarcely a less evil, placing them in charge of teachers of imperfect education and utterly incompetent for the proper discharge of the functions of a teacher.

"The time has come when some remedy must be found for this growing evil; otherwise, every effort which has been made to raise the standards of efficiency in the schools by supplying them with a better educated and better trained class of teachers will be rendered abortive. A young man or woman who has spent years in acquiring the necessary education, who has undergone professional training and successfully passed the prescribed examination, has a right to claim a reasonably remunerative salary from some source. If the public revenues are too limited to admit of increased provincial grants, and if further assistance can be expected by the augmentation of the county fund, then I respectfully submit that by legal enactment, the school districts, in proportion to their taxable valuation, should be required to contribute an amount which, when added to the provincial grant, will make up salaries sufficient to command the services of properly educated and well qualified teachers.

"In my last annual report, I gave a list of 20 school districts having a taxable valuation ranging from $409,350 to $35,000, in which the highest sum contributed by the district towards the teacher's salary was $185, and the lowest $85. These were comparatively wealthy districts. In the poor districts, so called, the regular provincial grants to the teachers and the county fund grant to the trustees are increased from 25 to 33 1-3 per cent. Even with this help it is not reasonable to expect that large salaries can be given in such districts; but they should be required to contribute according to their ability, for it is demoralizing to permit even the poorest of districts to become possessed of the idea that they need incur no financial responsibility for the support of a school in their midst. The minimum sum they should be required to contribute towards the teacher's salary should equal the provincial grant. Cases have come under my notice during the present year in which the teachers accepted as salary the provincial grant only, and the amount of the county fund was more than sufficient to pay all other expenses, as fuel, etc., so that in these cases, the schools, instead of being a financial charge upon the districts, were actually a source of income.

"It might be supposed that authority has been invested in the board of education, or in the chief superintendent to warrant the withholding of the provincial grant and the county fund in such cases; but this is not the fact. Under section 23 of the schools' act, the districts are not required to provide more than may be found necessary 'in further payment of teachers' salaries over and above the sums provided by the province and county, and any sum required for other school purposes during the year.' The amount, if any, voted at the annual school meetings is absolutely within the control of the majority of ratepayers present. The employment of the teacher and the amount of salary contributed by the district is determined by the local school board, and it often happens that a majority of the school board have no other interest in the school than to protect themselves and fellow ratepayers from taxation. The results are, in many cases, what might be expected when the educational interests of the community are left, without limitation, in the hands of ignorant and narrow-minded men, who have no proper conception of the importance of the trust committed to their charge. When obliged to open the school, they employ the person who will accept the position at the lowest figure, without regard to any other consideration.

"In order to protect the higher class teachers from competition, as to salary, with teachers holding a third class or a local license, the board of education some years ago passed the following regulation:

"'Third class teachers shall not be employed (except as class room assistants) in districts having an assessable valuation of $15,000 or upwards, unless by the written consent of the chief superintendent.'

"In the exercise of the discretion thus given him, the chief superintendent has granted permission for the employment of third class or local licensed teachers in such districts, only on the recommendation of the inspectors, and when assured that the closing of the schools indefinitely was the alternative. And yet in the majority of cases in which trustees have applied for such permission, there is strong ground for the belief that teachers of the second class could have been obtained, if a reasonable salary had been offered and proper efforts had been made at or before the beginning of the term.

"In regard to the granting of local licenses, it may be said that for several years such licenses have been almost exclusively limited to the counties of Madawaska and Gloucester, principally the former, where the supply of French-speaking trained teachers was very much below the requirements. But during the last year, in order to prevent the closing of the schools, I have been induced to grant local licenses in every county in the province. I need scarcely say that the majority of those for whom local licenses are asked are young girls living at their own homes in the community where they are to teach, that they have had little or no experience of life outside of their own narrow circle, that their education is but little in advance of that of the pupils whom they are expected to teach, and that neither in manner nor speech are they fitted for the discharge of a teacher's duties.

"The only effectual remedy for the evils I have pointed out is to provide in some way for an adequate system of salaries, graded according to the class, experience, ability and length of service of the teacher. In order to aid in providing adequate salaries, county school districts should be consolidated wherever possible, provision should be made for taking the children to a central school, and all school districts, large or small, should be required to contribute for educational purposes not less than 50 cents on every $100 of the taxable valuation. Some of the poorer districts contribute double that amount at present."

GILBERT CRANDALL DROWNED SATURDAY IN BELLEISLE BAY.

With H. Nealy He Was Crossing from Hatfield's Point in a Canoe—The Craft Overturned--One Managed to Cling to It, But the Other Sank.

The waters of Belleisle bay was the scene of a fatality which has removed from Springfield parish one of its most representative and best residents, Councillor Gilbert Crandall, who in crossing from Hatfield's Point in a canoe, was drowned.

The first word to reach the city came by telephone Saturday night to W. G. Scovil, B. E. Waring and Geo. J. Estabrook. The details learned Sunday are as follows: About 6 o'clock Saturday evening, Mr. Crandall and H. Nealy embarked in a canoe from Hatfield's Point to paddle across the bay. It is stated that their route was practically free from drifting ice.. When they had reached a considerable distance from shore the canoe overturned, flinging both occupants into the water. Mr. Nealy succeeded in clinging to the canoe and eventually managed to climb upon it, but Mr. Crandall, after an ineffectual struggle, sank. Mr. Nealy was shortly afterwards rescued and about two hours later the body of Mr. Crandall was recovered and borne to his home. Deceased was prominent in the business and political life of Kings county. He was a staunch Liberal and has been at the council board representing his parish for several terms. He had but lately returned to Belleisle from a bridge-inspecting trip to Port Mulgrave and Cape Breton. He was about 40 years of age and is survived by his wife and two young daughters. His father, Joseph Crandall, ex-postmaster of Moncton, resides there at present. He also leaves two brothers and a sister—William and Steadman, the former manager of the Western Union at Moncton, and the latter postmaster there, and Mrs. J. H. Rogers, wife of the C. P. R. ticket agent at Moncton.

Councillor Crandall was widely known throughout this province.

MR. TWEEDIE CLOSES; MR. FLEMMING BEGINS.

Budget Speech Presentation and Criticism in the New Brunswick Legislature—Premier Concludes With Expression of Firm Confidence in Result of Next Election.

Fredericton, N. B., March 20.—The budget was resumed in the legislature today. Hon. Mr. Tweedie said: "When I concluded my remarks last evening I was dealing with the item of public health.

Public Hospitals.

"The next item is public hospitals. The estimate for this last year was $7,600 and that sum was paid. All over the province the people show a desire to have public hospitals, where the sick can receive more careful treatment than is possible in many cases in private houses. Since last year a most generous gift has been made to the town of St. Stephen by the Chipman family, in the Chipman Public Hospital. I had the pleasure of being at the opening of that institution and I can only say that it is a credit to the town and that the generous givers deserve the thanks of everyone for their noble generosity. This hospital will receive the assistance of the government. In Woodstock also they are taking steps towards the erection of a public hospital to which we will be glad to contribute when it is established. These hospitals are the greatest possible benefit and I am glad to see their numbers increasing. In Madawaska, at St. Basil, there is an excellent hospital which also takes charge of orphans. The number there at present being I believe forty-five. It is well kept and everything first class. There is an hospital in Restigouche county which is doing good work and also one in Tracadie in connection with the Sisters of Charity. There is a fine hospital in Chatham which is doing a great deal of good. I need not say anything about the Fredericton hospital, it speaks for itself. At Moncton there is an hospital which is doing excellent work. All these hospitals receive some assistance from the government, and it is the policy of the government to assist them and any other hospitals that my be established.

St. John Hospital.

"I regret the complaints which have been made against the hospital at St. John which rendered it necessary for the government to appoint a commission to investigate its commission. It is too early as yet to say anything in regard to the evidence that has been given but I trust that the result of the investigation may be of interest to the hospital as well as all similar institutions.

Praise for Lunatic Asylum.

"In this connection I will mention the lunatic asylum which is admitted by visitors to be one of the finest institutions they ever saw. The cleanliness which destinguishes it is remarkable, the patients are supplied with good food and in every respect its condition is above the average of similar institutions.

"The item of $500 which was paid the New Brunswick Historical Society included $94.80, the cost of placing a table in St. Withen's Church of England in memory of Governor Carleton. I have already dealt wth the grant to the imperial institute and the one for immigration. The next item is for the expenses of the legislature. The estimate was $20,327; the expenditure, $21,206. The items in this account were: Salary of the clerks, $1,000; officers and messengers, $2,603; indemnity and travel of members, $15,171; legislative library, $1,100; balance expenses, steel bridge investigation, $1,326.

"For public printing the grant was $11,000 and the expenditure came to $12,837. The amount expended in 1900 was $12,494. Some days ago the question was asked with regard to tender system, but the amount of printing is constantly increasing, still, with the lower price at which it is done, we expect to keep its cost within a reasonable limit.

Mr. Hazen—What's the per centage of saving by the tender system?

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—"I speak from memory, but I think it was about $5 for each foun of 16 pages.

"For public works the estimate amounted to $296,077. This included an over expenditure of $102,227 from the previous year. For roads and bridges there was $165,000, for steam navigation $9,000, for public buildings $17,000 and for miscellaneous expenses $2,850. Some people have charged the government with extravagance in respect to this item. A large amount had to be expended to meet emergencies caused by the carrying away of bridges by the heavy rains. The government were not responsible for these disasters. I regret to say that the present rain is likely to do a great deal of damage all over the province and we have news from many counties of bridges being carried away. Every county is suffering from the same cause. Few people are aware of the vast amount of work which has to be done by this department or of the great number of bridges which it has to maintain. I have in my hand a statement showing the number of miles of great roads in each county, the number of bridges and the length of bridge work and the great roads of each county which I will read:

County.	Miles of Road.	No. of Bridges.	Length of Bridge Work. Feet.
Albert	128	62	6,223
Carleton	134	88	10,792
Charlotte	202	86	5,949
Gloucester	127	53	20,158
Kent	111	54	12,289
Kings	190	91	4,181
Madawaska	102	81	9,072
Northumberland	251	132	25,004
Queens	176	83	12,896
Restigouche	101	69	9,411
St. John	75	64	4,733
Sunbury	103	46	4,913
Victoria	155	52	6,012
Westmorland	218	95	16,454
York	262	119	18,384
Totals	2,345	1,165	166,362

Total of 4,000 Bridges.

"This statement will open the eyes of many persons and enable them to understand better the difficult position of the chief commissioner who has to take care of so many roads and bridges. In addition to these bridges on the great roads, the public works department estimates the number of bridges in byroads at 2,833, so that the total number of bridges in New Brunswick is 4,000. This includes 45 steel bridges. No person is responsible for the state of things which exist today in consequence of the heavy rains but it is our duty to meet the emergency which has arisen. For any break in our lines of communication is a matter that must be taken hold of vigorously. I think the chief commisisoner of the board of works is to be congratulated for being able to keep his expenditure within reasonable bounds and to satisfy every one. Under the item, Tourist Association, there is an estimate of $2,000, which was distributed as follows: Bay Chaleur, $500; N. B. Association, St. John, $1,000; Fredericton Association, $500. These associations want a larger grant, but I fear they will have to be satisfied with the same amount this year that they had last. I think that it would perhaps be better that these associations would amalgamate and work together, by doing so they would be able to arrange a better programme of tourist travel covering the different portions of the province.

Estimates and Receipts for This Year.

"I have gone over the accounts of last year and will take up the estimates and receipts for the present year. Our dominion subsidy is some $12,000 more than it was last year in consequence of the increased population of the province. The sum is larger this year than it will be next year because it dated from the first of July of last year. The next item is for the balance of the Eastern Extension claim which I explained yesterday. For the territorial revenue the estimate is $195,600. This is a difficult item to estimate exactly but the surveyor general had given this estimate from the best information available and I do not think it will be much astray. The fees of the provincial secretary's office, $10,000; private and local bills, $1,000; taxes on incorporated companies, $25,000; succession duties, $25,000; king's printer, $1,000; liquor licenses, $21,500; miscellaneous receipts, $1,000; refund from dominion government on fishery lease, $8,000; proceeds of loan fund to cover smallpox expenses $40,000 and we seen here that as the expenses of the smallpox epidemic are of an unusual character we do do not propose to deal with it as part of the current expenditure, but will issue a guarantee bond for ten years bearing 4 per cent. interest, a portion of which will be paid every year. Now come to the estimates of expenditure for the year. For administration of justice we have $17,050, a reduction of $475 from the figures of last year.

Agricultural Estimate.

For agriculture the estimate is $29,125, which is $5,401 less than last year. The reduction in this estimate is due to the fact there are no roller mills to be bonused this year. The commissioner for agriculture informs me that no new mills are being built beyond those already provided for. If, however, any new mills should appear the government has authority under the act to bonus them. For education the estimate is $204,544, a reduction of $1,910 from the previous year. The expenditure for the previous year was $200,681. For elections the estimate is $750, a reduction from last year. For executive government the estimate is $30,250, which is $180 more than last year. For game protection the estimate is $7,000 against $6,000 for last year. And there is a new item of $3,000 for the provincial museum. The interest on the bonded debt is put down at $128,000 or $4,000 more than last year. For the legislature the estimate is $20,477, an increase of $150 over last year. For the lunatic asylum the estimate, $54,419 or $7,123 less than last year, the grant for maintenance is the same as last year, but in 1901 the old balance paid off was $21,543 while this year the balance to be paid off will be only $14,419. For mining the estimate is $3,500 or $2,700 more than last year. Last year the estimate did not cover expenditure for salt boring authorized by law, aumounting to $1,000. This year the estimate has been increased with a view to cover all expenditures of that class as well as those connected with the diamond drill. For public health the estimate is $8,000, a decrease of $2,400 from last year. Last year the estimate for smallpox was $9,000; this year $7,000 has been estimated for this service. Public hospitals, the estimate is $8,200, an increase for this service of $600. This increase allows for aid to an additional institution.

Public Works

For public works the estimate is $194,350, a decrease of $101,727; the estimate last year included an accumulated balance of former years amounting to $102,227. The estimate of this year includes an addition of $500 to steam navigation. For surveys and railway inspection the estimate is $3,000, a decrease of $1,000. For Imperial Institute the estimate is $250, a decrease of $250, last year $243 was paid as the contribution of New Brunswick to that institution. The new grants in the estimates of this year are for Eastern Extension arbitration, $11,738; royal reception, $23,487; Sportsmen's show, Boston, $500, and agent general in London $1,000. Concerning this last item some years ago we gave the agent general the same amount. He receives no salary and has been put to a large expense so we think it only right to reimburse him. He is indefatigable in his efforts to promote the interests of this province. Every few days we receive letters from him on matters of importance connected with its welfare and we feel that his valuable services should be properly recognized.

New Brunswick a Sportsmen's Country.

The $500 for the Sportsmen's show in

(Continued on page 2, first column.)

PLAN FOR VAST PROVINCIAL PARK.

Scheme Discussed in Local Legislature and Bill Recommended and Passed —Matter of Lumber Leases Has Important Part in the Project.

Fredericton, March 21—The bill to establish a forest reservation and provincial park was considered in committee of the whole in the legislature today. Hon. Mr. Dunn said the reservation was to be a place where the wild animals would be secure from molestation. No shooting would be allowed, and only fishing to supply with food persons camping there. Lumbering would be restricted, as it was desirable to preserve the forest so as to feed the rivers.

Mr. Lawson said the Tobique was the best hunting ground in the province and he was opposed to having it locked up.

The attorney general said the locality had not been decided upon, and would not be until all persons interested had been heard. They would not lock up a valuable hunting tract. The idea of the bill was to do what had been done in Ontario in establishing the Algonquin park. This would effect a most desirable result and would attract tourists, as provision was made to authorize the erection of hotels.

Mr. Lawson said the expense of such a park would be large, as it would have to be patrolled by game wardens.

Hon. Mr. Hill thought the member was under a misapprehension in thinking that the county he represented would suffer loss. Such parks are being established in other countries and attract tourists. Many persons like to go into the woods to see the game, not to shoot, and took a camera instead of a rifle.

Mr. Porter thought the park would do Victoria county no injury, but rather attract persons to it.

Mr. Osman supported the bill.

Mr. Lawson said that the Nictau Lake and the head waters of the Tobique was the very place to which hunters now most resorted and to close it would lessen the revenue for game licenses.

Hon. Mr. Dunn said it is not intended to select the best game country, but a place to which game will resort because they are free from disturbance. A few years ago there was not a moose in the province west of the St. John river, except one bull, that no one could ever get near. Now, under protection, moose are becoming plentiful, both in Charlotte and in the other districts west of St. John.

Mr. Hazen sympathized with the idea of a park, but he feared that if lumbering in any extent was allowed it would be difficult to regulate it while the presence of lumbermen in the woods would disturb the game. It would be better if no licenses to cut lumber were issued.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley said it would be difficult to do this, as most of the crown land in the province was under lease, and the leases had yet 16 years to run. He agreed that when these licenses expired it would not be desirable to renew them.

Mr. Hazen feared that if the lumbermen were not excluded, the park would not be a success, and if the licenses were not to be renewed they would cut off all the timber and destroy the forests.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—They are not allowed to cut trees less than 10 inches in diameter.

Hon. Mr. Dunn said the preservation of the rivers was one of the great objects, but it did not seem possible to cut off the licenses.

Mr. Hazen—Then we will have to do the best we can under the conditions as they are.

Several sections of the bill were passed and progress was reported.

At the evening session the bill was passed.

NEW YORK MURDER CASE BRINGS OUT IMPORTANT COURT DECISION.

Police Have No Right to Question Prisoners Before Arraignment--Will Work Revolution Throughout the Country--No Such Thing in Law as Arrest on Suspicion.

New York, March 22.—Florence Burns, the young Brooklyn woman in custody since February 15, under suspicion of knowing how Walter Brooks met his death, was discharged by Justice Mayer tonight.

Brooks, who was a young commission merchant here, had been paying Miss Burns attention. He was found dead the night of February 14 in a room at the Glen Island Hotel. The district attorney tried to show that Florence Burns was likely to have killed Brooks because he was trying to cut loose from her. The defense advanced the suicide theory. Justice Mayer decided when the hearing closed tonight that nothing had been brought out sufficient to hold Miss Burns for the grand jury. After her discharge she returned to her home in Brooklyn. At the hearing this afternoon Attorney Backus, representing the Burns girl, contended there was not an iota of evidence to show that his client was connected with the death of Brooks. Assistant District Attorney Schurman followed in an argument intended to cast suspicion on the girl. Justice Mayer at once gave his decision in which he reviewed all the evidence and held that nothing had been brought out by the state sufficient for him to hold the girl for trial in the criminal branch of the supreme court.

Attorney Backus moved that certain statements made by his client to detectives be stricken from the record because she had not been informed of her rights when the statements were made. Assistant District Attorney Schurman opposed this motion but Justice Mayer granted it, saying he had searched carefully for a precedent where the statement of a defendant, when not informed of the charge against him or her, had been used as evidence and he had failed to find one such case.

Justice Mayer said he found no warrant in law for the questioning of a prisoner by a police officer before the prisoner had been arraigned before a police magistrate or informed of his rights. He said the section of the city charter which provided the bringing of a prisoner before the nearest magistrate contemplated such protection of the prisoner.

"If your honor is going to take that view," said Assistant District Attorney Schurman," I wish your honor would take it in a manner that would make it possible to have it thoroughly tested. It is going to work the greatest innovation in the system in vogue not only in the city of New York, but the entire country. Thousands of cases have been decided in court here on statements made by prisoners to officers before the arraignment."

Justice Mayer said the system might have been established by custom, but as long as there was no warrant for it in the law custom could have no force.

Assistant District Attorney Schurman said that there were many cases when no crime could be charged, when a prisoner was arrested on suspicion.

"There is no such thing as arresting a prisoner on suspicion," said Justice Mayer. "It is done, but there is no law permitting it to be done."

PROMINENT BOERS AT KITCHENER'S HEADQUARTERS UNDER FLAG OF TRUCE.

Rumors of Peace Revived by Important Move--Schalk-Burger, Reitz, Meyer and Krogh Interviewed Commander-in-Chief--Counted Good News in London.

Pretoria, March 23—Acting President Schalk-Burger, F. W. Reitz, ex-Secretary of state of the Transvaal, and Commandants Lucas Meyer and Krogh arrived here yesterday at 2.04 p. m., on a special train from Balmoral about 50 miles east of here. They came into Balmoral under a flag of truce. Upon arriving here Schalk-Burger and his party drove immediately to Lord Kitchener's headquarters, where he had an interview with the British general. The Boers afterwards proceeded to the railroad station and started at 5 o'clock for Kroonstadt, whence they will go out under safe conduct.

For a week past Schalk-Burger and his colleagues have been stationed at Rhenoster Kop, north of Balmoral, where they have been closely pressed by British columns. Despatch riders entered Balmoral Friday night and notified the British of the approach of Schalk-Burger and his party. It is reported that the Boer position at Rhenoster Kop had become almost hopeless and that Schalk-Burger once narrowly escaped capture.

Brussels, March 24—The Petit Bleu, referring to the arrival at Pretoria of Schalk-Burger, Reitz, Meyer and Krog, says it believes that Schalk-Burger's move is in response to fresh British overtures for peace, made out of gratitude for the release of General Metnuen, and predicts that these overtures will lead to no result unless Boer independence is conceded.

London, March 24—The news that the "Wandering Boer Government" has entered the British lines is regarded as having but one meaning, namely, that another attempt is being made to negotiate peace. The fact that the censor passed the news of the movement is accepted as confirmation of this opinion.

It is possible they have only sought permission to traverse the British lines to consult with Steyn, DeWet and Delarey, but, whatever their object, the news has been welcomed in London as pointing to the possibility of peace.

Some correspondence seized a short time ago when Steyn narrowly escaped, proved that he and Schalk-Burger were anxious to conclude peace. No extravagant hopes, however, are being built on the outcome of the intended movements.

London, March 24—Few of the papers comment on the news from Pretoria. They take it for granted that Schalk-Burger and his companions are on a mission of peace, and again engage in a discussion of possible peace terms, expressing the hope that the overtures will have a successful outcome. The presence of Meyer is regarded as significant, as he is an intimate friend of Louis Botha.

The Daily Chronicle commenting on the absence of Botha from the deputation, suggests he is standing aside owing to the failure of his overtures of a year ago, and considers that although the conditions Lord Kitchener then offered to Botha had been annulled, it is highly probable that peace may still be arranged on similar lines, but that the Boers cannot expect more lenient terms.

The Daily News remarks that a settlement would be possible if the Boers were treated like civilized combatants, "But men do not surrender unconditionally just after taking one of the enemy's general's and four of his guns."

London, March 25.—The Daily Chronicle this morning asserts that an armistice has been arranged pending the duration of Schalk-Burger's mission to General De Wet and that offensive operations against De Wet, Delarey and Botha will be suspended, the three generals having agreed honorably to observe the armistice and to refrain from operations until the return of the envoys to the Boer lines.

It is believed, continues the Daily Chronicle, that the envoys, after acquainting Botha with the result of their mission, will again confer with Lord Kitchener.

London, March 24—In a despatch from Pretoria, Lord Kitchener gives his usual weekly total of captures, but does not mention the Schalk-Burger incident.

The Hague, March 24.—Regarding the fears expressed in the British press that the Boer generals would not be inclined to recognize the authority of the civil government of the South African republics, in case the latter decided to open peace negotiations, well-informed persons here declare that such apprehension is unfounded. They point out that the Boer civil and military authorities have always worked in perfect harmony and that Mr. Schalk-Burger and the government could not have proceeded to the Orange River Colony, via Middleburg and Pretoria, without at least the consent of General Botha.

In conclusion it is said that the final decision as to whether serious peace overtures shall be made rests entirely in the hands of the burghers, who will have to decide upon it at a public meeting.

Mr. Kruger has not yet received any telegraphic advices from South Africa, nor has the Transvaal legation. But they undoubtedly will receive advices in the event of the leaders finding a workable basis for peace terms.

Ottawa, March 24—(Special)—The dominion government has offered a fourth contingent to go to South Africa to aid the cause of the empire. So far no official statement is available but your correspondent learns on excellent authority that the offer has been forwarded to Hon. Joseph Chamberlain through Lord Minto. Until such time as a reply is received of course the dominion government is not in position to give out anything on the subject. It is understood that this contingent is to be the largest on record. If the imperial authorities accept, Canada will forward with the utmost dispatch 2,000 men. As to the composition of the force that will depend entirely on the wish of the war office. In this, as in regard to the other contingents that have already been sent to the front, Canada will carry out the desires of the home authorities, believing that in doing so she will be acting in the best interests of the empire. There is every reason to believe that the war office will ask that the greater proportion of the number offered will be mounted infantry, but as to the details of the force that cannot be decided until an acceptance of the offer has been received. The contingent will no doubt be raised in the same way as the last one.

Canada will supply the men and the department of militia will outfit and equip the contingent, while Britain will no doubt insist as it did in the last instance, on recouping the dominion for the cost. There will be no difficulty in getting all the men necessary. Indeed there will be far more recruits than positions.