

QUEEN'S SPEECH.

Parliament Called to Provide the Sins of War.

No Other Matters to be Taken up at This Special Session.

LONDON, Dec. 7.—The 15th parliament of the reign of Queen Victoria opened yesterday. Before the lights went out in the ancient chambers almost every leading politician had spoken. Such fierce, personal animosity and such bitter invective had scarcely ever before marked proceedings at Westminster.

Lord Rosebery's veiled allusions in the house of lords when he assumed what many took to be the practical leadership of the liberal party, to the outspoken comment in the house of commons, criticism of Mr. Chamberlain permeated almost every utterance from the liberal benches.

For hours this target of satire and abuse sat listening intently, unmoved by groans or cheers. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman shook his notes in Mr. Chamberlain's face and declared that a man who published private letters for political purposes (referring to the Clark-Ellis correspondence) would be excluded from the society of all honorable men and ostracized for life had he resorted to such action as a private individual.

Once Mr. Chamberlain interrupted and leaped to his feet. A thrill ran through the house. "It is not so," he declared, and proceeded to deny the allegation that he had said that any seat lost to the government during the recent election was sold to the Boers.

He denied that he had ever accused Mr. Ellis of being a traitor. He denied also that he had decried any accusations against his own personal integrity. He declared that the special purpose of the meeting of parliament had been forgotten in an attack upon himself. Irritated beyond control by frequent interruptions and disturbances he called one of the liberals amid the excitement a "cad."

The speaker called him to order, and Mr. Chamberlain withdrew the epithet, apologizing for its use. After defending the publication of the Ellis correspondence, he was cut off by the midnight adjournment.

Arthur J. Balfour, first lord of the treasury, referring to Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's suave regrets at the departure of George J. Goschen and Sir Matthew White Ridley from the front benches, said he believed that Sir Henry was so generous that he would even find good in Mr. Chamberlain should the latter be removed to another sphere. A liberal shouted: "We draw the line somewhere," and both sides of the house roared with laughter.

Today the opposition will move an amendment to the address, setting forth for an early announcement of the government's policy.

Among the other leading features of the opening session, in which the liberal benches were so sparsely filled, and the government's so packed, there was no room for a vast majority, as Mr. Balfour's announcement that no member of the cabinet had ever said that he even dreamed the Boer republic would remain permanently under the Crown Colony form of government.

While Mr. Balfour was in the middle of a solemn declaration that the government would endeavor to temper necessity with mercy in dealing with a brave enemy, a liberal called out: "It would be better for the Boers to be dead than the English."

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's arraignment of the government was long and satirical. He declared that the liberals were perfectly agreed that the Boer republic should be annexed to Great Britain, but said they wanted to know definitely what the government proposed to do in the future before voting money.

At a late hour the government laid out the table of the house of commons the supplementary war estimate. The utmost secrecy is maintained regarding it, but reports say that it asks for £13,000,000 for South Africa and £2,000,000 for China.

Sir Charles Dilke, it is said, will propose an amendment, throwing a part of the cost of the South African war on the Netherlands railway and the underground mining rights of the late Transvaal war.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the liberal leader, after allusions to the election, said the remarkable thing about the war was that the public knew so little about it, and the harsh measures being taken against the people of South Africa, such as farm burnings. He asked the government for information as to the intention of these proceedings. He said he was slow to believe that driving a stubborn enemy to despair was the best way to make him surrender. It was in a desire to end the war, but it was also in a desire to lead to promises of harmony and contentment that he invited the government to declare its policy. He inquired why it should not be announced to the Boers that if they laid down their arms they would be allowed to return to their homes.

Mr. Balfour dwelt on the difficulties of the present position in South Africa. He said the men they were fighting were to be their fellow subjects, and all must be done to prevent immiterred over and over again that it looked forward to a condition when the British and Dutch would have equal rights. It was the fault of the Boer leaders that the war was prolonged. In the meantime the duty of the government was to pursue vigorous military operations with humanity, not only for common morality, but with a statesmanlike view of the future.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—A few minutes after the speaker, Mr. William Court Gully, had taken his chair in the house of commons this afternoon, the gentleman usher of the black rod, summoned the commons to the house of lords, where the lord chancellor read the queen's speech. It was as follows: "My Lords and Gentlemen: It has become necessary to make provision for the maintenance of the operations of my armies in South Africa and China. I have summoned you to hold a special session in order that you may sanction the enactments required for this purpose. You will not enter into other public matters requiring your attention until the ordinary meeting of the parliament in the spring."

A number of ladies were present at the proceedings in the house of lords, though the peers present numbered less than a dozen, apart from the lord chancellor, Joseph H. Chamberlain, and other foreign representatives were in the diplomatic gallery. The attendance of peers was unusually large.

The Earl of Lathom (conservative) in the uniform of the Royal Horse Guards, moved the address. He said he thought it could now be safely said that the end of the war was in sight. The volunteers had made their mark and the colonies had shown they were united to the motherland, never to be separated.

Baron Monk Bretton (liberal unionist) seconded the address in the same strain. Lord Kimberley, the liberal leader in the house of lords, during the course of his remarks, announced that he had just received a telegram from the Boers, offering a definite promise of the government's policy in the future of the novel and dangerous character of the recurrence of hostilities in South Africa and explanations of the alleged atrocities to the Boers, the burning of farms and similar severities.

Lord Salisbury paid a tribute to the skill of Lord Roberts and Kitchener, and to the bravery of the officers and soldiers.

In regard to South Africa, the premier spoke with great solemnity. He said the Transvaalers, the Free Staters and the world should understand there could be no deviation from the policy of the government as already outlined. Anything resembling independence is never to be granted. We must proceed to the inevitable issue.

We must let it be felt that no one, by the issue of useless and unadvised utopian could force the British government

to humble itself and abandon its rights, he could never allow that a shred of independence should be left. How soon the Free Staters and the Transvaalers would have something like self-governing powers depended on themselves. It might be years and it might be generations.

Regarding China, Lord Salisbury said he was unable to reveal anything of the government, but those of other nations might be better informed.

He was happy, however, to be able to quiet the fears of Lord Kimberley regarding the pursuit of the annexation and conquest. He had never heard of such a suggestion.

The concert entered and the latest intelligence showed that it possessed a very reasonable vitality. He was more doubtful of the time when a satisfactory result would be achieved than of the fact that a concert of Europe would be successful.

The first and the second were Lord Rosebery's spirited attack on the government. He was unspasmodic in his criticism of the dissolution of parliament, the conduct of the war, the policy of the government towards China of everything.

He caustically commented on the reconstruction of the cabinet, congratulating Lord Salisbury on his selection of a fairly numbering so many capable administrators, the reference being to the inclusion of the cabinet of so many of the Boer's relatives.

Joseph Chamberlain's comment on the charges against Joseph Chamberlain, the constant state of the colonies, was severe. He said he knew so little about it, and the harsh measures being taken against the people of South Africa, such as farm burnings. He asked the government for information as to the intention of these proceedings. He said he was slow to believe that driving a stubborn enemy to despair was the best way to make him surrender. It was in a desire to end the war, but it was also in a desire to lead to promises of harmony and contentment that he invited the government to declare its policy. He inquired why it should not be announced to the Boers that if they laid down their arms they would be allowed to return to their homes.

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Imparts Healthfulness to the Food

Royal Baking Powder possesses peculiar qualities not found in other leavening agents, which arise from the superior fitness, purity and healthfulness of its ingredients. Royal Baking Powder leavens the food perfectly by its own inherent power without changing or impairing any of the elements of the flour. Thus the hot-breads, hot-rolls and muffins, and the delicious hot griddle-cakes raised by the Royal Baking Powder are wholesome and digestible, and may be eaten without distress, even by persons of delicate digestion.

Alum baking powders are low priced, as alum costs but two cents a pound; but alum is a corrosive poison and it renders the baking powder dangerous to use in food.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., 100 WILLIAM ST., NEW YORK.

VERY SENSATIONAL.

A Story of the Wrecking of the Steamer St. Olaf.

Claimed that Pirates May Have Caused the Disaster by showing False Lights.

QUEBEC, Dec. 5.—A report has been circulated to the effect that relatives of one of the crew of the lost steamer St. Olaf received a cable message saying all on board except Marie Page and a young man had been picked up by a mail steamer and were safe in England. A. Fraser & Co. say they have heard nothing in the matter whatever, and they are convinced that had Captain Lemaistre survived he would surely have sent them word. A gentleman well acquainted with the scene of the disaster says if no other bodies of victims have been found, the reason of that of Miss Page, there is a possibility that they are actually in possession of some personal property of the missing victims, property which they could not possibly have obtained without stripping the dead or doing worse. He says that pirates may have caused the loss of the steamer by showing false lights on the coast during the stormy night when the ill-fated St. Olaf was wrecked.

CHINA TROUBLE.

Believed that the Ministers at Peking Reached an Agreement Tuesday.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The state department has been informed that the foreign ministers at Peking yesterday reached an agreement which was submitted to the home offices. Secretary Hay today cabled Mr. Conger authorizing him to sign the agreement on behalf of the United States government. It is difficult to gather details of the understanding at this time. However, it is known that in the two important issues that were still open, namely, those relating to punishment and indemnity, the views of the United States government have prevailed. As to the punishments they are to be the severest that can be inflicted by the Chinese government. As to indemnity, the Chinese government is to formally admit its liability and then the matter is to be left for future negotiations. It was understood that on other points the French proposition has formed the basis of the agreement.

FIELD MARSHAL VON WIDDELSPERGER, Peking, Tuesday, Dec. 4, says strong detachments of Chinese regulars, under Gen. Ma, are reported from Shan-Si to be holding the mountain passes on the frontier of Chi-Li.

An explosion at Pao-Ting-Fu during the clearing out of a powder magazine, killed one and wounded Lieut. Wolfgramm and four others.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—"It is the general belief here," says the 'Men Tsai' correspondent of the Daily Mail, writing Tuesday, "that China will accept the demands of the joint note which all

FREDERICTON.

Two Members of the Infantry School Presented With Cheques for Halifax.

FREDERICTON, N. B., Dec. 6.—The assembly room of the Fredericton High school was the scene of a most interesting event this afternoon. A few days ago Principal B. C. Foster received from Manager Dennis of the Halifax Herald a letter enclosing two cheques for \$20 each, with a request that they be presented to Privates Keady and Wallace of Halifax, two returned South African heroes, now attached to No. 4 R. R. C. L. this city. The cheques were part of the patriotic fund made up by the school children of Nova Scotia, through the Halifax Herald, for the boys from their province who had gone to South Africa. The large assembly room was completely filled by students of the school and visitors. On the platform were Privates Keady and Wallace, Principal Foster, Rev. G. M. Campbell, Col. Dunbar, Capt. Thacker and others. After the singing of the Soldiers of the Queen by the pupils, Principal Foster, in a neat speech, presented the cheques. He was followed by Col. Dunbar and Rev. Mr. Campbell, who delivered stirring addresses. Cheers for Wallace and Keady and the singing of 'We're Britons None the Less, Sir' and the national anthem, brought the ceremony to a close.

The Peppers, butcher, of this city, has made an assignment to Sheriff Sterling for the benefit of his creditors. Liabilities,