

a vigorous winter campaign. New troops will be sent to Africa; among them a fourth contingent from Canada, numbering 2,000 men, and ordered to sail on May 8-20. New Zealand, which has already sent ten contingents, will make up another, also of 2,000. Should the efforts to secure peace prove happily successful, these colonial regiments will be allowed to relieve the worn-out Imperial troops now on service. Great Britain's good intentions for South Africa have not, however, been confined to plans for ending the war. She has been protecting, feeding, and educating her foes. At an enormous cost hospitals have been established, relief camps organized, and schools opened. There are now twice as many children in the schools of Orange River Colony as in the palmiest days of President Steyn. Skilled women teachers are being brought from the colonies, forty young women having sailed from Canada, under engagement for one year.

### Other African Troubles

The importance of recent events in the south has somewhat overshadowed another African trouble with which Britain is having to grapple in Somaliland, where Mahomet, a Mullah who is both mad and bad, is attacking the British possessions. He has been repeatedly defeated, but being as nimble as General De Wet himself, he has escaped capture. Troops have been sent down from Aden, and active operations will be maintained during the next few months. The Mullah claims to be divine, and so long as he is at large, with the determination and the ability to make trouble for the British, Somaliland, a district of no little importance, can not have assurance of rest. Troops are also being held in readiness to proceed to the Soudan, where trouble is threatening. Britain's occupation of Egypt is likely to some day draw a protest from France-Russia. The Congo Free State, which was organized to resist the slave trade in the heart of Africa, is reported to be itself a centre of frightful atrocities. The administration of the State will be investigated by a European Congress.

### British Politics

The Budget, which is now occupying the attention of all England, shows a net deficit of £45,324,000, which, of course, will be considerably reduced if the war is brought to an end. The greater portion of this deficit—some two-thirds of the total amount—will be covered by an additional loan, financed as usual by the Bank of England. The balance will be made up chiefly by new taxes: an increase of a penny a pound in the income tax; two-penny stamps on checks instead of one-penny; and, most important of all, a duty of three pence per hundredweight on wheat and grain, and five pence on flour and meal. The income tax and the corn duty passed the Commons with votes, respectively, of 297 to 67, and 283 to 197. A fifth source of revenue will be the suspension of the sinking fund.

### England and Free Trade

It is apparent that a new departure is being taken in British economics. For nearly sixty years England has been a free trade country, and would seem to have got a long way from the old Corn Laws. Of recent years, however, the signs of the times have been pointing more and more to a revival of the protectionist policy—and this from national rather than political necessity. Clearest of all such evidences is this new duty on breadstuffs. The Chancellor claims that it is not a violation of free trade principles, and that the tax is so very small that the working-people will not find it in any way burdensome, although as a first result the price of bread has been temporarily advanced. But there is another influence which is tending to make England protectionist. The logical outcome of her new Imperialism is that her colonies shall be given a system of preferential tariffs; a closer attachment of these colonies to the mother country can hardly be accomplished unless a more favorable commercial treatment be given them than to the rest of the world; and so not only is the necessity of home finances forcing England to adopt protectionist measures, but the logic of Imperial feder-