No Comfort in The Plebiscite.

Ex-Governor Mackintosh on Eight-Hour Feature of the Martin Combination.

Mine Owners and Workmen Should Have Liberty of Friendly Arrangement.

From Rossland Miner, March 16.

Editor Miner:—It doubtless surprised many to learn from various newspapers at a distance, that Rossland was virtually under martial law; that scores of special constables guarded particular precincts, and that the attorney-general of the province, moved by tender solicitude for citizens or specials or both, had been forced to reprove His Worship the Mayor, and to ask for the name of the vicious magistrate who took upon himself the awful responsibility of swearing in these constables. This by-play might be humorous were it not for the issues involved, so far as the mining interests of British Columbia are concerned. The idea of an attorney-general accepting one-sided testimony, and upon this, presuming to dictate to a constitutionally governed community, was quite sufficient proof that some one yearned to make political capital, even though a dire blow was directed at a particular district. We know that upheavals of every description are too often the opportunity for politicians; but there are periods in the progress of provinces, as well as nations, when he who attempts to utilize the tribulation of a community in order to advance his own interests, or the interests of any coterie represented by him, is guilty of treachery to the dearest safeguards of the commonwealth. All thinking men, all who realize their responsibilities, must be pained by the spectable of robust assemblages of miners, grouped at every corner of Columbia avenue; all honest men must deplore the situation. No man, I care not with what party he is allied, would for one moment dream of utilizing the position for the furtherance of partisan designs. Rather would he endeavor by this object lesson to draw the mine owner and the mine worker together; rather should all well thinking citizens pause ere committing themselves to any drastic policy or allying themselves with the politician, the demagogue or the agitator. Rossland mines require the services of skilled miners, if they are to be practically developed. Will this be accomplished by driving the best labor out of the camp? Will the problem be solved on the other hand, by antagonistic demonstrations against the mine owners? In short, will advantage to either accrue, consequent upon a war of capital against labor, or vice versa? We do not want political manoeuverers to play with the question; nor do we want foreign agitators. The hour has arrived demanding the best work of honorable, unprejudiced men elected from either side. British Columbia, or the greater portion if it, is essentially a mining area awaiting the industrial energies of all classes for development. Rossland, as well as the Boundary and Slocan, are essentially mining centres, and in striving to formulate reasonable principles of settlement, we must consider the mine owners, the mine workers, the province as a whole—then the politicians. I refer to the latter because the legislature must crystallize into enactments such measures as the electors approve of, and more than this, because the great Conservative party appears to be appealing to the people, without a leader who can guarantee anything or vouchsafe protection to any class suffering from grievances. A platform may come into existence, but a platform without a frontispiece clothed with authority to give it life is poor material out of which to mould permanence. A Conservative myself, I object to sailing under false colors. Hence, in all honor, I deem it proper to place my views upon record, irrespective of the imaginary advantage gained by reticence. In the first place my voice is against the Hon. Joseph Martin's eight-hour plebiscite. He proposes to keep the law as it stands until the legislature meets. What else can he do? Can he suspend it? Can he annul it by an order in council? Certainly not. Next, the Minister of Mines, Mr. Smith Curtis, will make a diplomatic tour, striving to pacify all rival elements, after he has already put himself on record as the champion of measures which, placed within the covers of statute books, would prove more disastrous than any possible existing labor legislation. Mr. Curtis failing, then a referendum; that failing—then chaos! We all know the fate of the prohibition plebiscite, and at all events, as has been said, compromises, like poor umbrellas, make very bad shelters in a storm. Mr. Martin's referendum would simply postpone action for at least a year; if it carried, his government would be forced to keep the eight-hour law on the statute or to violate every principle or pledge involved. If, on the other hand, it met with an overwhelming defeat, Mr. Martin would be forced to expunge the law from the ordinances of the province. Meanwhile what would befall the miners who desired to work or the capital that, driven from the country, would be invested elsewhere? More than this, what would be the fate of those who had invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in commerce, trade, lumber, shipping and real estate? By the time Mr. Martin and Mr. Curtis had passed through the referendum ordeal, dragging all these interests at their chariot wheels, ruin would stare every man in the face, consequent upon capital withdrawing from a catch-as-catch can policy. I am not overdrawing the picture, nor laying on black coloring where brighter tints might be used. I speak feelingly, but I speak sincerely. My one hope in writing thus candidly is to promote an amicable settlement. Mr. Martin, Mr. Curtis, nay, a score of politicians and office seekers may profess solicitude upon behalf of all interests involved. My contention is that the bounden duty of mine owners and mine workers is to come together; not stand squaring off at one another. Again I say, if the referendum declared against an eight-hour mining law, investors would be shrewd enough to postpone action, and, having postponed, would not be likely to again enter the arena. If, on the other hand, the law were maintained a double injury might be inflicted, for business, having been practically suspended for many months, would not be likely to revive. In a crisis such as this every citizen should speak out. His interests are supreme, and his influence should be of paramount importance. I contend, with all due deference to the opinion of others, that the mine owner should be the last to lay his back against a company's bank account and issue the ultimatum "Work or starve or find employment elsewhere;" that the mine worker should think seriously ere committing himself to a hard and fast policy of "The eight-hour law or nothing; no concesion, no sacrifice, no compromise." Each should pause before it is too late and be willing to make a sacrifice and each be willing to act reasonably. One of the greatest industries in the province is undoubtedly for the time being jeopardised, and why? Simply because a few politicians at a caucus privately agreed upon certain legislation, and were put to deliver the goods according to contract; that certain legislation was put through at telegraphic speed. Unfortunately this was subsequent to immense sums of money being invested in British Columbia; not millions but tens of millions, and only when various investing companies compared their monthly time expenditures with work accomplished during the corresponding months of the previous year was it alleged that under the eight-hour law the greater portion of what should have been profits entirely disappeared. This was aggravating, sure enough, but doubly so, when found that many above ground were receiving salaries for creating dissatisfaction amongst those working below, and that to foreign interference was traceable much of the discontent and unrest so gravely prejudicial to mining interests in various sections of the province. The legislature was appealed to without effect and finally many mines were virtually closed, with the result that hundreds of able-bodied men were forced to seek other fields of operation. It had been said that these men would not respect law and order; that they were intent upon creating public disturbance; in their praise be it said that not the remotest symptom of rowdyism was observable; no statute, municipal or provincial, was violated, furnishing convincing testimony that had all classes of miners been properly approached some reasonable solution of the problem might have been arrived at. True, all the mine owners asked might not have been conceded, nor all the mine workers demanded been agreed to; still a broad and effective conference, comprising not only the two parties but disinterested coadjutors might possibly have restored harmony. At all events, I have yet to know that this was done, and am only hopeful that it may yet be accomplished. Personally I feel a great deal of responsibility, having been instrumental in inducing investors to favor British Columbia. Despite the fact that they secured magnificent properties, it is to be feared that their capital has so far paid very small dividends. The mine workers reaped the benefit of expenditures, while at the same time merchants, tradesmen, dealers in every line of commerce, hoping to make some profit, ventured their all only to find competition so active that the general public derived material benefit in being able to buy in a cheap and well-stocked market. Here again the mine worker, while receiving remunerative wages, was not forced to pay extravagant prices. The merchant feels the depression to-day, and realizes how important it is to him and to all branches of business that the conflict between the mine owner and the mine worker be amicably adjusted. How is this to be accomplished? Not by abuse, not by acrimony, not by mutual distrust. Both sides must be willing to give and take; both be reasonable and forbearing. Mr. Martin's minister of mines may come and go, Mr. Martin may scream "Referendum" until he is black in the face; the gulf will widen if the present opportunity for arriving at an understanding is treated cavalierly. If the mine owners feel like being obdurate, they err very much indeed, and if the better thinking mine workers permit malign counsel to influence them, they will have themselves to blame.

I have talked with many old mine workers, many of whom contend that they would prefer the ten-hour system, and at the same time prefer toiling below rather than above ground. They complain that in every properly worked mine the men go on at 7 o'clock, have an hour at noon, leaving their work at 20 minutes before noon, returning at 1 and being allowed the time occupied in reaching their work, each shift suspending work for one hour in order that smoke from powder may be got rid of and pure air introduced into the mine. On the other hand, they claim that there is certainly great loss of time during eight hours in a big mine where immense quantities of powder are used, and the air dense and impure, while, added to this, it is an unwritten law that men only work eight hours where the bottom of the shafts are damp or at times partially flooded. Here, then, is certainly an issue that might be considered, as it proves that the mine owner cannot, in estimating loss under the eight-hour law, include the above as chargeable to legislation. Then comes the question of contract labor. Naturally enough a good miner can make more money by contracting than by day labor; but to accomplish this he must enjoy the very best skilled industry, for a miner who does not understand his business will destroy more drills and machinery than a contract can stand. The Rossland camp comprises huge beds of hard rock; the danger is not great, for there is little rock broken, and few masses to jeopardise life by falling, and once the machines are up, the air or steam being turned on, the machinery practically does its own work. On the other hand, contract labor, say, for instance, throughout the Slocan country, in many cases would not answer; less powder is used, but on the other hand, constant timbering is requisite in order to protect the workmen from the falling debris consequent upon loosening masses of soft rock. A score of other difficulties present themselves, so far as the system of contracting is concerned, each district presenting peculiarities. The questions are complex, but many more serious than this have been settled by a mutual desire to mainain harmony. This will not be accomplished by mere political interference, as whichever policy prevails will leave its heartburning, its grievances, its sores. The eight-hour law need not be repealed, but an understanding could be arrived at, expunging fines and compulsory hours, and protecting miners, who desire to make contracts, from any interference upon the part of those who object to such being entered into or prosecuted. At all events, it does seem strange that the mine owners should be kept at arm's length, or the miners, anxious to work, be forced to remain idle. I have no interest in mine working. I am neither a mine worker nor a mine owner in Rossland or Slocan or the Boundary. I speak for myself alone, and appeal to both parties interested, to exercise a modicum of reasonable judgment in a crisis to be deplored by all who have the welfare of British Columbia at heart.

I remain, dear sir, your obedient servant,

C. H. MACKINTOSH.

DREADING AN OPERATION.

Weary of experimenting of salves, suppositories and ointments and dreading a surgical operation, scores and hundreds have turned to Dr. A. W. Chase's Ointment and found in it an absolute cure for piles. The first application brings relief from the terrible itching, and it is very seldom that more than one box is required to effect a permanent cure.

James Bays Are Champions.

Defeated the Seattle Y. M. C. A. Team in International Basket Ball Match.

Intermediate Association Football Championship Goes to Nanaimo Thistles.

The great basket ball game between the Seattle Y. M. C. A. and the J. B. A. A. of this city, which was played in the drill hall at the band concert last night, resulted in a win for the Bays by 8-7. The game was the best ever witnessed in this city, being played under the latest rules, which prohibit all rough play and make the game much more interesting from the spectator's point of view. At the commencement of the game the Seattle team made a grand rush, and before ten minutes had elapsed they had scored three goals or six points. The Bays then got a free throw, which Stephen neatly converted. Hard play followed, which showed the Bays superior in lasting powers and combination, and at last Burns secured from Lorimer and scored. This was followed by a pass from Finlaison, and Burns again added two more points to the Bays' score. For a few minutes it was hard to hear anything, on account of the tremendous applause following the change in the home team's favor.

After half time the Bays appeared in much better form, owing to their diligent practice and the hard work that Prof. Foster had put in on the team. Play was continued for ten minutes, when the Bays had a free shot, and Finlaison evened the score (6-6). The game remained even but a short time, for Temple soon converted a free shot for Seattle. The Bays were then thoroughly aroused, and seeing that time was short played accordingly. Finlaison showed up extremely well, and after a brief space of time he brought the ball through the press and scored again for the Bays, making the score 8-7 in their favor. Time was called soon after this.

Messrs. O'Sullivan and Lowe umpired the game. This win gives the Bays the much-coveted title of champions of the Pacific Northwest.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

Win by Nanaimo.

The Columbias and Nanaimo Thistles played the last game of the intermediate cup series yesterday, the game resulting in a win for Nanaimo by a score of 3-0. This gives the Thistles the championship for the season. The game was very evenly contested all through, the Thistles playing very well together, but several of the Columbias were off color. The Thistles scored two goals in the first half, both from free kicks. In the second half Nesbit, of the Columbias, accidentally scored for their rivals. For the Columbias Lawson and Marshall played a splendid game, being ably assisted by Berkeley, Shanks and Fell. For Nanaimo, Hailstones, Nimmo, Adams and Lockhart played well. The reason for the Columbias' defeat may be summed up in the fact that their shooting was not good, while every shot of the Nanaimos was dead on the goal.

GOLF.

The Tournament Continued.

The spring tourney at the Oak Bay links was continued yesterday, under very favorable weather conditions, a number of the more important matches being well advanced toward the finals. These will be brought off to-morrow, when some strong and interesting play is looked for.

THE ROD.

Great Fishing in the Cowichan.

If there isn't a rush for the Cowichan river to-day that will totally eclipse the exodus of three years ago to the Klondike or the present migration Nomewards, it will not be owing to the fact that the fishing isn't better there than in either of the Northern camps of which so much has been said and written. Gus Hartnagle, of the Driard, bears witness—he also produces divers splendid exhibits, all secured in a single day's angling, marked exhibits 1 to 22. They are all magnificent specimens of the royal trout, and no one who gets similar luck will ever be forced to present a magnifying glass with his fish stories, nor yet invest his catch with telescopic attributes.

FROM NATURAL CAUSES.

Result of the Inquest Into the Death of the Infant Forrest.

The coroner's inquest yesterday afternoon to enquire into the death of the infant child, Violet Forrest, resulted in a verdict of death from natural causes, attributable to the negligence of the mother and grandmother.

The mother of the child, Ellen Forrest, a girl 16 years old, and the grandmother, Mary Forrest, were in court, and were visibly affected at the proceedings. The evidence consisted chiefly in establishing two points—the cause of death and the matter of the issuing of the burial permit by the city.

Dr. Fraser testified to having made a post-mortem examination of the body, which was that of a very small female child, two or three months old. There were no marks of violence on the body, nor any evidence of disease. The cause of death was evidently malnutrition. The child's person had not been kept clean, causing excoriations. There was no evidence that the child had died from the effects of any disease. Had proper medical attendance been secured, the child's life might have been saved.

The next witness was Ellen Forrest, the mother of the child. The child had been sick one week before she died. It had the whooping cough, she thought. No doctor was called in.

The Coroner—Why did you not call a doctor?

Witness—My mother did not want doctors. I do not know why.

Witness, continuing, said the baby had been fed on oatmeal from a bottle.

The grandmother of the dead infant was then called. She corroborated the evidence of the last witness. She did not believe in doctors, hence none were called.

Undertaker Hanna told of how he had obtained the burial certificate. There being no physician in attendance, he had inquired at the city hall as to what he should do, and was told to have the grandmother sign as nurse in attendance, which he did. He then went to the registrar's office and asked if that was sufficient, and was directed to have her sign as occupier of the house where the death took place, which he did. Then the permit was issued.

E. W. Bradley, assistant city clerk, corroborated the evidence of the last witness.

Coroner Hart in his instructions to the jury said it was clear from the medical evidence that the child's death was caused by neglect. In regard to the child being fed on oatmeal, an infant at such an age could not possibly assimilate such food. So the question arose, Was the child neglected maliciously or through ignorance? But in any event it was strange that medical advice was not sought.

In regard to the burial certificates, he thought the city authorities showed a good deal of looseness in the system of issuing the certificates, not insisting upon the presentation of a doctor's certificate.

The jury brought in a verdict as above.

Letters to The Editor

THE CONSTITUTIONAL OUTRAGE FURTHER CONSIDERED.

Sir:—In dealing with subjects that agitate the public mind during periods of political unrest, I have often observed that speakers as well as writers are apt to lash themselves into a state of excitement amounting almost to phrensy, and, forgetting the great principles at stake, and allowing their better judgment to be blinded by passion, permit invective to take the place of argument and abuse to push reason to the wall. I think it may be fairly claimed that, in the present controversy over the extraordinary condition of political affairs, there has been a singular abstention from personalities and demagogic appeals to excite the popular ire. This abstention is the more creditable when it is reflected that the provocation has been great. The causes from which the agitation has sprung would be sufficient in more populous communities to lead to revolution. There are no people so sensitive as the Anglo-Saxons when they have reason to believe that their rights have been invaded—that an attempt is being made to deprive them of the political powers extorted by the barons from King John; later confirmed in the striking off of a royal head; strengthened by the Bill of Rights, accepted by William and Mary in 1689, which stipulates that "the levying of money for the use of the crown by royal prerogative (special warrant) without legislative enactment is illegal," and since enjoyed by the lords and commoners for more than two centuries without an attempt being made to ignore the popular will. In the letters which I have addressed to the public through your columns I can fairly claim that I have dealt with the serious questions in a spirit devoid of passion, prejudice and personalities I have not referred to either the Lieutenant-Governor or the premier in terms other than of respectful remonstrance. The temptation is great to do otherwise. The outrage on the constitution is so gross and inexcusable that were I to allow my pen to run away with my discretion and express my real feelings I should fall to command that attention from the class whom I labor to reach by the force of argument and calm discussion.

In previous letters I have said that His Honor was not blameable for calling on Mr. Martin if he had reason to believe that Mr. Martin had a good following in the house and country. His Honor's attack on the constitution began when, after a fair trial, he found that the premier did not possess the confidence of the country or the legislature. Every day that the premier is suffered to remain in power without an appeal to the people adds to the difficulty of the situation, increases the popular discontent and brings the country nearer to a political and financial crisis, which may involve many of our citizens in great loss before matters are allowed to resume their constitutional course.

The great need of the province to-day is legislation—wholesome laws to correct the evil work of the session of 1899, and to inaugurate other and necessary reforms. The relations of labor and capital are of a most unsatisfactory nature. Experienced and able miners are idle in every camp. English capitalists no longer regard British Columbia as a safe field for investment and much of the capital already invested is either earning nothing or realizing a loss. It was estimated, two months ago, that the shrinkage in values of Slocan properties since the labor agitation began was $9,000,000. It is now asserted that the shrinkage represents $12,000,000. This is an enormous sum. It is sufficient in amount to build Mr. Martin's government railway from the Coast to Kootenay. Development has practically closed in Kootenay and prospecting for new fields is at a standstill. Official figures show that "for the seven months, from June 1st to December 31st, the shipments in the riding of Kaslo alone had fallen from 20,660 tons, valued at $1,675,222, during the corresponding period in 1898, to 4,904 tons, worth $363,954 in 1899, and that one thousand men less are employed at Kaslo than in 1898. The effect upon business, manufactures, banking and transportation interests, and on miners themselves cannot be estimated in dollars and cents. It is incalculable. The withdrawal of capital from Kootenay, which followed closely on the heels of the labor troubles, has cast a blight over every interest. Credit is dead. "Pay to-day and I'll trust to-morrow," is the motto of the prudent shopkeeper. The banks refuse to discount paper that before the strike was welcomed. Notes are either protested or renewed that few months ago would have been met at maturity. The merchants of Victoria and Vancouver are declining orders from dealers in the interior who were always before regarded as "good." These are bare facts, I produce them on the very best authority. When I say that the prospect is alarming I do not overdraw the picture. "Oh! the pity of it." A year ago things looked so bringt and promising. To-day all is gloom and uncertainty. The Lieutenant-Governor had the opportunity of his life. Dissolution should have followed prorogation. At this moment the elections should have been well-nigh over and the house could have been got together by the 1st of May. Even now, if the Lieutenant-Governor should take a firm stand and insist upon an early appeal the country might be saved from disaster. If he should decline to take advantage of the opportunity we might as well erase 1900 from the calendar. It will be a dead year, indeed, for British Columbia and one to which we can never refer but with feelings of pain. If the Governor has been advised that a full vote can only be had after a revision of the lists, he is wrongly advised. The probability is that if the polling should be put off till June fewer votes will be cast than if the elections were held in May. Already the population of the coast cities is being depleted by every departure for the northern gold mines. Nome, Atlin and Yukon are claiming many British Columbians thus early in the season. In another month or two there will be a "rush" of hundreds of voters to those fields and a comparatively small vote will be cast in June.

The situation bristles with difficulties, which one sweep of the Lieutenant-Governor's pen would remove. The power resides in him. He must have seen that it is impossible for Mr. Martin to form a government. Whatever delusion he may have labored under before with respect to the premier's popularity should now be dispelled. Whatever chance Mr. Martin may have had before he issued his remarkable address he has none now. If His Honor doubts this statement—if the failure of the premier to form a ministry has not already convinced him of the correctness of this assertion—he has means at his command to verify it. The country is crying out for legislation. Every interest in languishing for want of it. The future of the province for years hangs upon it. Action by Mr. McInnes is anxiously awaited. Will he respond to the almost unanimous demand of the people of the province and by ordering an early election restore to them those constitutional privileges of which they have been deprived? Or will he cling to his idol and go down with him to a political grave from which there will be no resurrection. Mr. Martin may "bob up serenely" at some future time; but for the Lieutenant-Governor there will be reserved the fate of poor Sir Charles Darling, the Australian governor, who, thinking that he was a greater man than the Colonial Secretary tore the constitution of the colony into tatters at the bidding of a cabinet of demagogues and was dismissed.

D. W. HIGGINS.

A PROVINCIAL PARTY.

Sir: This is not a time when British Columbia can afford to throw herself blindly into the arms of either of the political parties recognized in federal affairs.

At present this province is in a most unfortunate political condition, and there is apparently but one hope for the country.

That hope is in the selection of a thoroughly trustworthy and patriotic man as leader of the government—that is to be.

Now is the time for a provincial party to arise, having at its head some well known and respected son of British Columbia, who can be depended upon by men who have in the past voted Liberal, and by men who have voted Conservative. As England in the time of her need called upon the idol of the army, "Little Bobs," to lead her soldiers to victory, so British Columbia in this the time of her sore distress, must seek as the leader of her government—some local "Little Bobs."

It is altogether to be deplored that during the period when capital has been barred from the most promising field available for speculative investment by the South African war, the abundant natural resources of British Columbia have failed to attract the idle capital of Great Britain.

We have not far to search for reasons why this province has failed to profit by such a great opportunity.

No doubt the chief reasons are to be found in the non-progressive and penurious policy of the late provincial government, and in the "wet blanket" that was thrown over the struggling industries of the province by a law which shortened the working day and thereby reduced—or entirely removed—the profits of mining companies.

At the present juncture, the people of British Columbia can well afford to sink petty personal considerations and select as their representatives in the legislature men who will pledge themselves to honestly endeavor to assist the legitimate development of all the great natural resources of the province, and enact such laws as will protect alike the interests of labor and capital.

Once again I say—let us have a provincial party.

ONLOOKER.

Victoria, March 22.

PROVINCIAL UNIONISTS.

Sir: If it is not an impertinence on my part, I would suggest to "Onlooker" and others, that a party should be forthwith formed under the title of Provincial Unionists. I think this would be an early and appropriate title at the present time.

Secondly. That measures, not men, as formerly suggested by the Colonist, should be the battle-cry.

Thirdly. That the leaders and advocates of the Unionist party should be governed as nearly as possible in the discussion of political measures, and the conduct of public men, by the use of what is known as parliamentary language.

Fourthly. That an endeavor should be made to give provincial politics or the discussion thereof, a better tone than has hitherto prevailed.

Affirmative action is required, whereas to hesitate because of opposition, sneers and guerilla attacks, by invisible opponents or otherwise, is an attitude of negation. Go ahead, sir; "Be just and fear not."

In conclusion, allow me to remind you of a remark of Sir James Fitzjames Stephen, as follows: "The man who can sweep up the greatest number of fragments of political power into one heap will govern the rest.'

S. PERRY MILLS.

WHO CAN ANSWER THIS?

Sir:—Could you kindly oblige me by letting me know through the columns of your valuable paper, the value of a George IV British sovereign, date 1825.

COIN COLLECTOR.

Victoria, March 23.

Severed His Connection.—Mr. L. J. Seymour has severed his connection with Van Anda, where he has been editor of the local paper, the Coast Miner, justice of the peace, license commissioner, etc. Mr. Seymour also handled the real estate and building operations of the Van Anda Copper & Gold Company, insurance and other incidental business, in which he has been very successful.

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FORTY SECOND YE

Roberts' Move Near at H

Such Now the Impressi Boer Force Two Wee March Distant.

Free State Towns Gar and Civil Governmen Being Planned.

London, March 29.—5:15 a. m Roberts has sent 10,000 troops ten miles north of Bloemfo the railway. This is a prelim the general advance.

Immense quantities of store now been accumulated at Bloe and Lord Roberts' infantry is s about to move. An impressio can be traced to the war office, i that the advance will begin ne day.

Boer observation parties are near Bloemfontein, but Lord has 130 miles to cover before the great position which the B preparing at Kroonstadt. Mo miles a day is probably the bes do with his field transports. T he can hardly engage the Boers for two weeks.

The reconstruction of the rail hind him may even delay an inv the Transvaal until May.

Meanwhile all the important t the Free State within Lord reach are being garrisoned. Nichu, Philoppolis, Fauresmit Jagersfontein are thus held.

Sir Alfred Milner is touring in turbed newly acquired territory, gating conditions and arranging ministration. He is understoo getting materials for a report Chamberlain concerning a plan government.

The foreign office, according Daily Chronicle, is arranging wi tugal for some thousands of troops to be landed at Beira a by the Rhodesia railway from Kesso to Umla.

MAFEKING'S ORDEAL

News Brought Up to Few Da Showing Heavy Bombardm in Progress.

London, March 29.—A Preto spatch to the Daily Mail, dated says: "An official despatch r heavy bombardment of Mafekin gress on Monday, March 26, w met with a spirited response."

INDIA'S STARVING MIL

Colossal Expense of the F Relief—A Great Schem of Irrigation.

Calcutta, March 28.—The Lord Curzon of Kedlestone, a the council on the budget to-d that nearly 5,000,000 persons receipt of regular relief and t cost for the ensuing year was at 225 lacs of rupees. The revenue for one year had been of rupees. The government hoped during the forthcoming spend 100 lacs of rupees in i but he could see no chance o down the military estimates.

"There are two duties of statesmanship," said the Vicero is to make these millions hap the other is to keep them sa the sake of the one we must no the other."

LIBERAL LEADER'S VI

Would Have Present Generatio War—Union of the Colonies the Empire.

London, March 28.—Sir Edw Liberal member of Parliament Berwick-onTweed division of berland was the principal spea mass meeting of five thousand held at Nottingham this evenin

A letter was received from S Campbell-Bannerman, the Liber in which the writer expressed l at not being able to attend th owing to illness. He expressed that the government would p cost of the war on the presen tion. He believed the war wa interests of the Empire, but should be allowed to think that cheap. "I do not share with exclaimed, "their dislike of the perialism. It does not mean thing to all, but everybody re the extraordinary union of th with ourselves; and after the perial paramountcy will have t ed into Imperial control. I loo to a South African Federatio the British flag."

GOLD COMMANDEER

Pretoria, Monday, March government has commandeered of the gold reserve of all ban has been given as security to th of nearly £300,000.

GEN. MOUNTAIN'S DE

Danville, Que., March 28—M Thomas L. Mountain is dead 73. He served through th mutiny and had as one of his Sir George White, the defender smith. He retired from acti many years ago and settled h

THE KENTUCKY ASSA

Frankfort, Ky., March were no developments in the tion case to-day, although the with rumors of more arrests phases. It was reported that nent man who was supposed Winchester would be arreste spatches from Winchester sa suspected man is not there a arrests have been made at tha