To the Editor of the Cole

War's Cost **Fifty Million**

So Figure Politicians in Speculating on Financial Policy of the Ministry.

Cannot Be Charged to Revenue and Borrowing Preferred to New Taxes.

Suggested Cabinet Changes Not Likely Since the Agitators Lack Following.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24,-Touching on the political side of the South African war the London correspondent of the

"It is not likely that there will be any cabinet changes, since Mr. Alfred Harmsworth's claims to political dictatorship, by virtue of having a string of torship, by virtue of having a string of War; what the defeat of England would War; what the defeat of England would war.

crease in the circulation of the Daily Mail; but he lacks sagacity and sobriety Gatacre Checks of judgment. Certainly the Tories are as little prepared for the displacement of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach by Mr. Chamberlain as the Liberals are for Lord Rosebery's return to leadership. "Sir Michael Hicks-Beach will find it

less difficult to finance a big war than a small one, since he will be forced to borrow on a large scale and increase the funded debt. The military operations in South Africa will require not ten but fif-ty million sterling. It is clearly imprac-ticable for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to provide for war expenses by charging them against revenues for two or three years, and carrying a large float-ing debt. He is not likely to increase the difficulties of the ministry by raising

iked Thackeray; a man who, to my thinking, endears himself to you on some part of every page he wrote. One night I was in the Adelphi theatre and went behind to see an old friend of mine in the company. He presently said to me: "Did you see who was in the house?" I said: "Do on mean Thackeray?" He said: "Yes, Do you know that when he comes in he puts all of us out, and we feel we can't do anything: Now," he continued, "with Dicking: Now," he continued, "with Dicking:

A TRUCE OVER CHRISTMAS.

t Hostilities Are Suspended for the World's Great Festival.

London, Dec. 25.—4:30 a.m.—The war office has received a cablegram from Gen. Forestier-Walker, dated at Capetown yesterday, saying:

"Have no further news of general situation. It may be almost safely predicted that nothing will occur to-day. A truce, either formal or informal, is being kept for the observance of Christmas by the opposing forces."

CONNAUGHT DISAPPOINTED.

Was Accepted by General Roberts as Staff Officer but Government Withheld Assent.

London, Dec. 25.—The Duke of Connaught again pressed to be allowed to go to the front, but the government declined to give its assent. Then waving considerations of rank, he offered his services to Lord Roberts in any capacity as a staff officer. Lord Roberts consented, but the government again declined.

THE SOLUTION OF WAR

"This millionaire newspaper owner, who was a clerk with a modest salary under Sir George Newnes only a few years ago, is Lord Rosebery's friend and aspires to be a political Warwick for both parties, with a large incidental increase in the circulation of the county of the county of the circulation of the circulation

Dutch Rebels.

All Males Within Twelve Miles of British Camps Required to Assemble.

Order for Arrest of All Persons Found Travelling Without

Britishers'

nany, or any other great European country, it would presumably be to the government that all men would turn for coscape from the threatened national disaster. In England today the Englishman thinks of his government only to criticise it, and with heartfelt expletives denounces its military methods of transport, its artillery of too short range, its failure to provide the regular mounted to the southward owing to the scarcity of weten." roops most needed for scouting, and so of water.

But having done his swearing, the Englishman turns away from his government to himself and his sons, and there Methuen's springs spontaenously from every town and countryside a new citizen army, to be dressed for most part in homespun and qualified alone by good health and a desire to serve. The Lord Mayor began desire to serve. The Lord Mayor began a few days ago to form a corps called the Lord Mayor's Own. He wanted only 1,000 from the city of London, but 1.400 places are already taken and 600 men are to be mounted. The neighboring and hardly formed city of Westminster, not to be outdone, is gathering its own corps, while other mayors and other cities are forming other bodies.

"Then the Yeomanry, the ancient and half dead semi-military organization of

INCLUDIA HOUTCH.

May Process. Nation of the Control of the Contro

BRITISH GENERALS

Self-Reliance

To the Editor of the Colonist,
Sir: I was much pleased to read Fairplay's letter in your paper this morning. I
campbell's remarks, and aim sure many
others do also, I am an old woman now,
and can remember the first affair of the
Khyner Fass, and also when the British
troops won it, It was not then said that
the generals were incompetent. It has
often happened that they have not been
soften happened that they have not been
soften happened that they have not been
soften happened that they have see to
the column of about 1,000 men. On
March 1 of the tyrent Fennele published
a cartoon to Punch—John Bull learning a
length regarding the manner in which
the people of Great Britain take a crisis,
and how they have see to work to
straighten matters out. He says:

To the Editor of the Colonist,
Sir: I was much pleased to read Fairfront,
Gallant and fresh and say;
(agilatin the thick of it, bearing the brunt for
front,
Gallant and fresh and say;
(agilatin the thick of it, bearing the brunt in
front,
Gallant and fresh and say;
(agilatin and fresh and say;
(agilatinal and fresh and say;
(agilati and how they have set to work to straighten matters out. He says:

"England takes her crisis in her own peculiar way. In France, Russia, Germany, or any other great European are then indignant at not being allowed to settle the affair as they could have done then, and all this sacrifice of precious lives would have been spared. One thing has been demonstrated—the abundant loyalty of the British colonies.

AN ENGLISHWOMAN.

BULLER'S CAMP.

His Column Keeps Boer Force From Natal Besides Making Kimberley Easy.

for carrying the strong position which half encircles him.

"I have assurances from high quarters that he will hold his ground and not retreat to Orange River. He makes constant use of the balloon, and is watching the enemy's movements day by day. The bull dog has not lost his grip and while he holds on to the open velt beyond

SCAMP OF THE FAMILY.

And the moral is quickly seen— There is always a place for the hardest

In the service of the Queen. Cowichan, B. C., 21st. December, 1899.

BATTLE OF RIETFONTEIN.

ccount of the Artillery Duel Written by the London Mail Correspondent.

Ladysmith, Oct. 26.—The busines of the last few days has been to secure the retreat of the column from Dundee. On Monday, October 23, the whisper began to flay round Ladysmith that Col. Yule's force had left town and camp, and was endeavoring to join us. On Tuesday it became certainty.

At four in the dim morning guns began to roll and rattle through the mud-greased streets of Ladysmith. By six the whole northern road was jammed tigh t with Good Service. streets of Ladysman. By six the with bearer company, field hospital, ammunition mn, supply column—all the stig, unwieldly, crawling tail of an army. Indians cottered and staggered under green-curtained doolles; Kaffir boys guided spans of four and five and six mules drawing ambulances, like bakers' vans; others walked beside wagons curling whips that would dwarf the biggest salmon rod round the flanks of small-bodied, huge-horned oxen.

From Antabeles Making mental response by the control of the present of the present and the present of the prese

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—An extra of the Canada Gazette issued to-night approves of the agreement between the harbor commissioners of Montreal and the Come commissioners of the same commissioners of Montreal and the Come commissioners of Montreal and the Commissioners of Mon

down to their guns; a man knelt by the ammunition twenty paces in rear; the mules by now were sung under cover. "Two thousand," sang out the major. The No. 1 of each gun held up something like a cross, as if he were going through a religious rite, altered the elevation delicately, then flung up his hand and head stiffly, like a dog pointing. "No. 4"—and No. 4 sun hurled out fire and filmy smoke, then leaped back, half trightened at its own fury, half anxious to get a better whe of what it had done. It was a little over. "Nineteen hundred." cried the major. Same ritual, only a little short. "Nineteen fity"—and it was just right. Therewith field and mountain guns, yard by yard, up and down, right and left, carefully, methodicaily, though roughly, sowed the whose of Matawanas with bullets.

It was almost magical the way the Boer fire dropped. The guns came into action about a quarter past nine, and for an hour you would have hardly have known they were there. Whenever a group put their heads over the sky line 1,950 yards away there came a round of shrapnel to drive them in earth again. Presently the hill-side turned pale blue—blue with the smoke of burning veldt. Then in the middle of the blue came a patch of black, and spread and spread nutil the huge expanse was all

the blue came a patch of black, and spread and spread util the huge expanse was all black, pocked with the khaki-colored bould-ers and bordered with the blue of the ever-extending fire. God help any wounded enemy who lay ther!

enemy who lay there!

Crushed into the face of the earth by the guns, the enemy tried to work round our left from Tinta Inyoni. They tried first at about a quarter past ten, but the Natail Horse met them. We heard the rattle of their rifies; we head the rap-rap-rap of their Maxim knocking at the door, and the Boer fire stilled again. The Boer gun had had another try at the volunteers before, but a round or two of shrapnel sent fore, but a round or two of shrapnel sent in the graph of the graph

For a second a few of the rawer hands in the regiment wavered; it might have been serious. But the rest clung doggedly to their position under cover; the officers brought the flurried men up to the bit brought the flurried men up to the bit

The mountain guns turned vengeful towards the spot whence the fire came, and ing, blackening patch of veldt—and silence.

From then the action filekered on fill half-past one. Time on time the action filekered on fill work because I half-past one. Time on time the action filekered on fill work because I half-past one. Time on time the action filekered on fill work because I half-past one. Time on time the action filekered on fill work because I half-past one. Time on time the action filekered on fill work because I half-uttered protesting to the rear. But for these things, however, sembles what may be seen any day on the Fox Hills at Aldershot.

But not for long! At 800 vards the work because I half-uttered protesting to the rear. But for these things, however, sembles what may be seen any day on the Fox Hills at Aldershot.

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Without the publicat

order, and is carried protesting to the rear. But for these things, however,

A Prese

Written for The

WWW WWW.

ligh street was an d Clove alley on the allel to it its entire poor people who it no one ever venti occasional policem sister." or the drea On the whole, cha self pitilessly where there

hope of any return, where

auch filth and drawl and go

ness, and gathered her clea

her to hurry away to a r throwing a drop in the oce sighing, and so left it. Some in the broad light of day, a perhaps of the warmth Christmas season—someon its open doors and scattered imong the eager wan chile the passages, or outside on the graceless imps had for and made mud spades of unions and prisons, and se had done everything in fact even to making bullets of the the munificent giver as she way daintily out at the up before she had quite en gloom, before her eyes had tomed themselves again to in the shops, or she had to the comparative freshness quite succeeded in checking spoke of a duty perfund corner. There was a heap and an accumulation of dry together by the wind. On this, their four feet hude their elbows on their kn thrust down between, sat Their large, sunken eyes we y on the brightness outside ed wistfully, longingly at recognized the utter use proaching it, as if they w nspoken law which fo to venture beyond their o territory. The uninvited as she found herself pred poor feet, and could almost l don for her intrusion. But necessity for this, as they her. A woman stumbling the stant occurrence, and the e caped their notice. So in s shamefacedness, she wend ward with a half resolve the morrow, and to do a l laying their hunger and nakedness. Unaware of t tions the children sat imm y regardless of the increase arkness which by degree Nine o'clock struck from church, and then they streto ed limbs and confronted the younger, a giri, rubbed with first one eye and then the
"She aint a-comin', Bobbie
"Don't seem like it," ans

moment, and then added, himself, "That's about it; t you bet." Fanny received and more rubbing of the e "I can't a-bear Christma
"We never get no Chris Gran drinks herself away. again, disheartened, and I after stolidly assenting b silence, a little longer gaze opposite, whence group children continuously issu en with toys and bor shivering sigh from Fan nestle closer to Bobbie tauntingly bright sight. ly, almost roughly, and e "Come along, Fan," along o' me. There's the post office for the parce you, cos it's the New Year Fan hung on to his arm the great van as it passed Who sends the presen curious little glitter in l "Why, the Queen," said "Them carts belong to t chock full of presents.' "Oh. Bobbie!" she gasp "Come on, then," said arm, but averting his face you. It's true-tell ye stra had stopped outside the and there was quite a c folks intent on saving th many formed groups of th there was much laughter good wishes. Bobbie and til they got quite close t she gazed up in admiration how many of these beauti Queen owned, and why her name outside more cle

ing his cap down and the collar up, "Guess they've a her another Christmas box and Groom." He paused t

so Fan knew she was to be lered at his stern air. "There comes Tim with so out of the post office with so heavily laden that he o over the top of it. Withou to expect, her excitement sight of him, but Bobbie gar er pinch, to stop her exclama noticed nothing. "Hullo!" laughed a man

poor children-will yours here?" "is it true the good Queen

buthcehr's tray, and nodding postman. "You've got your aint ye. Tim? How's the although very strained and could not allow such a war pass without recognition head in the direction of his same time resting his rig steps of the cart for the b his basket. But in doing slight overbalancing tilt, cels poised precariously on the bottom with great si while 'Tim was aus while Tim was auswering concerning his wife with worthy minuteness, one pa the edge unseen by anyone sed urchins closely watchin "D'ye see that, Fan?" breathlessly, as if he had Sharp—under your pinnie-Now follow me quick, or the on ye." Fanny obeyed him parcel tight. She could f beating through it, and she straggling hair with the dis