## AFFAIRS OF THE DOMINION.

**Close Contest in Calgary—Mounted Policeman's Boys Burned—Move for Prohibition of Cigarettes**

### MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Winnipeg, Dec. 11.—W. H. Cushing was elected mayor of Calgary to-day by 25 majority.

The civic elections take place in Winnipeg to-morrow. The contest is the quietest in years.

### A LOST ENGLISHMAN.

Winnipeg, Dec. 11.—Some alarm is felt here over the mysterious disappearance of a young Englishman named A. F. Downing, who arrived in Winnipeg on November 28 and has since been missing.

### LITTLE BOYS BURNED.

Winnipeg, Dec. 11.—At Regina this morning fire destroyed the residence of Constable Saunders, near the Mounted Police barracks. Mrs. Saunders and a baby in arms escaped, but her three little boys were burned to death.

### FROM A BANK'S WRECK.

Winnipeg, Dec. 11.—The liquidators of the Commercial Bank of Manitoba have issued checks to shareholders for a third dividend, making a total of $16 per share returned to shareholders to date.

### C. P. R. TRAFFIC.

Montreal, Dec. 11.—The traffic receipts of the C. P. R. for the week ending December 7 were $689,000; for the same week last year, $591,000.

### RUSHING A JUDGESHIP.

Ottawa, Dec. 11.—Judge Robinson, of Lambton, Ont., has resigned on account of ill-health. It is understood that at Saturday's cabinet meeting D. F. Macwatt, barrister, of Barrie, was appointed in his place.

### QUITE A THEFT.

Montreal, Dec. 11.—F. Lemieux, accountant of the defunct Banque Ville Marie, was arrested this evening on a charge of stealing $175,000 from the funds of the institution.

### RULES FOR LITTLE YACHTS.

Montreal, Dec. 11.—The agreement made between the Royal St. Lawrence and the White Bear yacht clubs has been sent back for the signature of the St. Lawrence club, the White Bear people agreeing to all suggestions made. The articles of agreement call for some conditions which will give new designers something to think about and put some difficulty in the way of freak construction.

### GATACRE'S MISADVENTURE.

**Wiseacres Say He Is the Wrong Man For the Command—Comments of the Press.**

Pretoria, Dec. 11.—Six hundred and two British prisoners were taken at Stormberg.

London, Dec. 11.—The feeling in London to-day over the disaster in South Africa is expressed in the following paragraph from the Daily Mail: "Apart from the loss of 600 men, the unexpected Boer success may cause a more serious disaffection among the Cape Dutch. The government should at once despatch more troops."

The Daily News says: "Gen. Gatacre's reverse is a sad commentary on the difficulty of military operations in a semi-disaffected country. The enemy's spies are everywhere, and there is much reason to fear that our equipment is inadequate and our scouting insufficient. Of course, he will be immediately reinforced."

The Standard says: "The event is in the highest degree deplorable, and will militate much against our success in the colony, especially in the northern and western portion of it, already honeycombed by disaffection."

The Pall Mall Gazette remarks: "The country's calm will again surprise the Continent. If the blow is more serious than it appears, neither the crown nor the ministry will be in danger of even a single seditious vilifying howl in the street. We have confidence in those who are fighting for us and in their directors."

At a luncheon to-day Lord Durham, formerly a lieutenant in the Coldstream Guards, said that Gen. Gatacre overworked his troops in the Soudan, and was not fit to have command in South Africa. He also blamed the war office for the disaster in the attack on Stormberg, as the officials know the opinions of the officers who had served under Gen. Gatacre.

### CANADIAN STEAMER LOST.

Montreal, Dec. 11.—The Elder-Dempster liner Merrimac, 47 days out, has been posted as lost by Lloyds'.

### TELLS DEPTH IN A MOMENT.

**An Instrument That Can Determine Just How Deep Water Is Beneath a Vessel.**

To tell the exact depth of water beneath a vessel at any given time at a moment's notice is the object of an instrument recently perfected known as the fathom meter.

The fathom meter is circular in form and in the centre is a suspended circle, which is set in gimbals, after the fashion of an ordinary sea compass. This circle has a frame of glass and is graduated into half degrees and fathoms, which are pointed out by an indicator. In the center, and running clear across, is a small magnet. Connected with the instrument is a primary cell, from which a sufficient current can be obtained when it is desired to energize the magnet. The earth being also a magnet, its magnetism, or zero is obtained, and when the instrument is properly adjusted and the circuit is closed an observation taken from it on board of a moving vessel shows immediately the difference of the earth's magnetism at this point.

As soon as his model was ready, the inventor of the fathom meter prepared to test it, and for that purpose went on a steamer from New York to Newport News and back again. He placed the fathom meter in the captain's room, and there he was shut in with it. At intervals during the trip the captain instructed an officer to throw the lead and take the depth of water, and as soon as the officer made the report the captain went to the inventor and asked him: "Well, what depth are we now?" The answer on each occasion was prompt and correct, the indicator pointing unerringly to the number of fathoms beneath the vessel.

Anyone who knows how the depth of water is at present taken on board of will see that an instrument like this, if further tests bear out the claims of the inventor, is bound to prove useful. With the lead it is next to impossible to obtain absolutely correct measurements, for the reason that while the measurement is being taken the vessel is moving and the lead is consequently inclined. Before the lead is thrown the vessel slackens up a little, but it still keeps moving onward. Now, by means of the fathom meter the exact depth can be ascertained, no matter at what speed the vessel is running, and hence it will be seen that a great deal of time can be saved, and no allowance need be made for the inclination of the lead.

The entire apparatus does not occupy more space than an ordinary typewriter. In regard to submerged wrecks and similar dangers the inventor claims that his instrument, by indicating the depth of water at a moment's notice, will give timely warning of such dangers and will enable captains to avoid them.—New York Herald.

### COL. INGERSOLL IN THE WAR.

**His Honorable Military Service—The True Story of His Capture.**

From the New York Sun.

To the Editor of the Sun: Sir—In your sketch of Col. Ingersoll's life printed in this morning's Sun I find this statement: "While guarding a crossroad in Tennessee he was captured by Confederates, his own captor being a very young boy."

Allow me to say that the story of Col. Ingersoll having been captured by "a very young boy" belongs to the variety of false stories often circulated by unscrupulous persons. It is true that during the war Col. Ingersoll was captured by the Confederates, but his captor was not "a very young boy." In a letter from John W. Kinsey, late lieutenant Company B, 11th Illinois Cavalry, dated at Peoria, March 14, 1891, the true history of Col. Ingersoll's record in the war is given in these words:

The 11th Illinois Cavalry, Col. Ingersoll in command, left camp in Peoria, Ill., February 22, 1862, marching overland to St. Louis. From that point it proceeded by transport to Pittsburg Landing, where it arrived in March, and on the 6th and 7th days of April participated in the memorable battle of Shiloh, where Col. Ingersoll's regiment did good service, several of its number being killed and wounded.

Its next experience, except the constant scouting required of a cavalry command, was in that other two days' fight at Corinth, Miss. There again under command of its gallant Colonel, it proved its loyal bravery, like the regiments that fought side by side, by its list of wounded and dead.

The regiment was next stationed at Jackson, Tenn., and on November 28, 1862, news of the movements of the raiding rebel cavalry under Forrest having been received, Col. Ingersoll, with a force consisting of a part of his own and another cavalry regiment and a section of artillery, in all numbering 600 men, was despatched on a reconnoitering expedition in the direction of Lexington, Tenn. We camped at night near the village, and very early the next morning were attacked by a rebel division at least 10,000 strong. He (Col. Ingersoll) had only time to deploy his small force in a single rank on each side of the road, where he had planted the artillery, and where, having dismounted, he was personally directing the service of his two guns, when we were literally overwhelmed by the rebel forces, charging six ranks deep. A good many of our command, being run over and passed by the enemy, escaped as best they could, but Col. Ingersoll, fighting on foot, together with part of his men and the battery, was entirely surrounded and, overcome by numbers, surrendered to the enemy.

Forest, supposing, no doubt, that a large force was in his front, immediately paroled his prisoners and pushed forward. Col. Ingersoll was sent to St. Louis to command a paroled camp, and here, attacked with illness, he waited weary months for his exchange. As there appeared little prospect of this, all exchanges at this time having been suspended by the government, Col. Ingersoll, despairing of a return to active service, visited his regiment in the fall and declared his intention to resign. Though deeply regretting the loss of their brave and genial commander, the boys bade him good-by with the conviction that under the circumstances his course was the wisest one. Thus the government lost his personal services in the field, but on his return home his matchless eloquence in behalf of the old flag and his old comrades in the front was worth thousands of men and millions of money, and will live when marble has crumbled to dust.

### FATALITY AT CUMBERLAND.

**Sudden Inflow of Gas Causes Explosion With Distressing Result.**

The hazardous nature of the miner's life even in the most effectually safeguarded and best managed of collieries, was again illustrated on Monday night by an explosion in the No. 11 long wall, diagonal slope No. 4, of the Union Colliery Co.'s mine.

The explosion occurred at ten o'clock, just as the shift was leaving the mine for the night, through the sudden subsidence of the roof, releasing an unknown of feeder and causing an immediate outburst of gas.

There was no fire of any kind in the slope, and gas had never before been encountered in that part of the mine. The slope had been carefully examined by the mine fireman only an hour before, when all was well. The fall of the section of roof and consequent explosion could therefore be attributed only to purest accident, the coroner's inquest, which was held yesterday afternoon, being purely formal.

By the explosion, two white miners lost their lives, these being:

T. B. Jones, and
Bernardo Seucco.

Both met instantaneous death. The injured—none seriously, it is thought—number five whites, two Japanese, and one Chinaman. Ah Hoy, the list of the whites reading:

John Guthrie
John Guthrie, jr.,
Howard Fairbairn,
Fred Lawson, and
Henry Thomson.

The overman, Mr. John Matthews, was burned on the face, his injuries being very painful though not especially dangerous. The two Japanese were temporarily overcome by afterdamp, but have fully recovered.

The mine was ready for the resumption of operations yesterday morning, but will remain idle until to-morrow out of respect to the dead, the funerals taking place to-day.

### THE CAPTIVE BOERS.

**British Consent to Give Their Government a List and Other Desired Information.**

Washington, Dec. 11.—Upon the application of the South African republics through the medium of the Netherlands government, the British government has consented to supply the Boers with lists of the Boer prisoners held by the British and with other proper information as to their condition. The British government has intimated in addition that it expects that the Boer government will reciprocate when called upon.

## NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL

**Allowances For Soldiers' Families—Voters Lists Ponderous as Ever—Bye-Elections.**

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Dec. 12.—The difficulty in reference to the rates of pay to wives of men of the special service battalion has been settled, Minister Borden having approved of separation allowances to be paid in accordance with the rates paid in the Imperial service, as follows:

Wife with quarters, 8 cents; without quarters, 16 cents. Each girl under 16, with quarters, 3 cents; without quarters, 4 cents. Each boy under 14, with quarters, 3 cents; without quarters, 4 cents.

Fair progress is being made at the printing bureau with the Dominion voters' lists, practically all being completed, with the exception of those from Ontario, copies of which are coming in very slowly from the municipal authorities.

A meeting of the cabinet was held today, at which routine business was transacted. The question of the date of the meeting of parliament has not been settled definitely, although it is understood it will be not later than the first week of February. Several bye-elections for the House of Commons will be held in January.

### WESTMINSTER ELECTIONS.

**Scott Mayor by a Handsome Majority—The Aldermen and Trustees.**

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, Dec. 12.—At New Westminster yesterday J. Scott was elected mayor, polling 407 votes against 254 for W. H. Keary and 16 for A. N. Herring. The aldermen elected and their votes were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Marshall Sinclair | 451 |
| W. R. Gilley | 438 |
| Geo. Adams | 416 |
| R. L. Reid | 408 |
| W. A. Johnson | 405 |
| J. C. Brown | 352 |
| R. C. McDonald | 346 |

The defeated candidates were: A. E. Woods, 315; T. R. Pearson, 306; Thos. Roscoe, 126.

The school trustees elected were T. S. Annandale, 524; James Gifford, 471; John Mackenzie, 417. They defeated George W. Boggs, 386; and H. A. Eastman, 286.

### BRITISH MILITARY TERMS.

**Organization Nomenclature—What Is an "Army Corps"—Difference Between Regiments and Battalions.**

From the London Daily Chronicle.

The following information may be of use to those who are not versed in military matters but take an interest in every detail of the news about the fighting in South Africa.

Our home army is supposed to supply three army corps for home defence and two for active service abroad, besides forces for minor expeditions. An army corps must be considered to have a very elastic interpretation as regards numbers. Its strength and the proportion of cavalry, artillery, etc., must depend on the nature of the campaign. On paper the British army corps is about 36,000, but the army corps mobilized early last month (exclusive of reinforcements added thereto during the past three weeks) numbered about 49,000 of all ranks, including the cavalry division. Of this number about 31,000 are infantry. It should be remembered that the army corps will form only a portion of the force under Sir Redvers Buller, as he will have the Natal field force (now under Sir George White), the force already in Cape Colony, and the Colonial Police, Rifles and Volunteers, besides certain naval contingents.

To complete an army corps all "units" have to be made up to their "war strength," and for this purpose a portion of the army reserve had to be mobilized.

The army reserve is not a separate force in itself, but has been described in the House of Commons as "men who have been allowed to go on furlough on certain conditions." It is, in fact, composed of men who have served in the ranks and have returned to civil life, receiving nominal pay for holding themselves in readiness to return to the colors when called upon. They are classified in four sections, according to their length of service in the ranks and their conditions of reserve service. Their pay varies (according to the section) from 4d. to 1s. per diem, when not serving with the colors. It is from this source mainly that the "peace strength" of a unit (battalion of infantry, squadron of cavalry, battery of infantry, company of engineers, etc.,) is made up to "war strength" for the purposes of mobilization. The total available strength of the army reserve is 82,000. Of this number only a small proportion have as yet been called up for South Africa. The militia reserve is not connected with the army corps, but a portion is being mobilized for garrison duty at home.

### REGIMENTS AND BATTALIONS.

It would appear that there is some misunderstanding among civilians as regards the meaning of a regiment as distinguished from a battalion, and as regards line battalions and militia battalions. As an instance: A usually well informed evening contemporary a few days ago sent—on paper—two imaginary militia battalions out to South Africa. The Third and Fourth battalions of the (imaginary) "Staffordshire Regiment" were allotted to transports. As a fact no militia battalions have gone out. Every infantry regiment is divided into a certain number of battalions. With rare exceptions the first two battalions are "line" battalions (regulars), and every battalion after the second is militia (the volunteer battalions in addition are always so designated). The exceptions are as follows: The Grenadiers, Coldstreams and Scots Guards have each three line battalions (the Third Scots Guards is yet inchoate); also the Royal Fusiliers, Lancashire Fusiliers, and the Royal Warwickshire regiments; King's Royal Rifles and the Rifle Brigade have each four line battalions. The Foot Guards regiments have no militia battalions.

The word "regiment" is frequently misapplied when "battalion" is intended. No infantry regiment is ever moved or otherwise treated as a unit. The two battalions, if ever they come together, do so by accident. A cavalry regiment is a complete unit. An infantry battalion consists of eight companies, besides two companies at the depot. The war strength of an infantry company is 116 of all ranks, and, therefore, in the field a battalion, including staff (8), numbers 1,010. The total nominal "peace strength" of a battalion at home is 881.

Mounted infantry will be largely used in the South African campaign. This is a composite force composed of a certain number of companies, each one formed of sections of specially selected officers and men from different infantry battalions. A company in the field consists of 142 officers and men, and every two companies have a machine gun section attached. Four companies of mounted infantry are attached to each cavalry brigade. Mounted infantry are armed as infantry and fight dismounted. They are mounted only for the purpose of rapid movement.

### SQUADRONS AND BATTERIES.

There was considerable lack of comprehension of the numerical meaning of the word "squadron" when a squadron of the Eighteenth Hussars was reported captured by the Boers. A cavalry regiment at home, exclusive of the three regiments of Household Cavalry, which has a peculiar organization, has, "on the higher establishment," a peace strength of three "service", and one "reserve" squadron. A service squadron consists of four troops—192 horses and men in all. A reserve squadron of two troops has 102 officers and men. The total regiment on the higher scale consists of 696 officers and men. The "lower establishment" regiment has less squadrons, and a total of 578 of all ranks. There are eight "higher establishment" regiments ready for war. The others have to be made up to war strength if necessary. It will be seen from the above that the word "troop" has an actual significance and cannot in military parlance be applied vaguely to a body of soldiers. It is not generally known that a certain proportion of the men of every dragoon and hussar regiment (as well as all lancers) is now supplied with lances.

The Royal Regiment of Artillery is composed of horse artillery (R. H. A.), field artillery (R. F. A.), garrison artillery (R. G. R.), and mountain batteries. R. H. A. act with cavalry, R. F. A. and mountain batteries with infantry, and R. G. A. are used in the field for siege purposes with heavy guns, or for purposes of defending a camp or permanent position, such as that at Ladysmith. Horse and field artillery are organized in "brigade divisions," consisting each of two batteries of R. H. A. and three of R. F. A. Each battery has six guns. Three batteries R. F. A. are attached to each division of infantry in the field, and nine batteries R. F. A. and two of R. H. A. constitute the separate force known as "corps artillery," so that an army corps has twenty batteries in all, exclusive of R. H. A., belonging to the cavalry brigade, which is attached to but not treated as part of the army corps. A peace battery of R. H. A. has 167 and R. F. A. 141 of all ranks; a war battery of R. H. A. 179, and of R. F. A. 171 of all ranks. A howitzer battery comes under the head of R. F. A. A garrison battery has on an average 150 of all ranks in piece strength, and 200 in war strength. The army corps will have 138 guns, including those attached to the cavalry division.

### R. E., A. S. C., AND R. A. M. C.

The Royal Engineers (R. E.) are divided into various branches, the most important of which are bridging battalions, field companies (of earthworks, etc.,) balloon sections, fortress battalions, railway battalions (including engine drivers, stokers, etc.,) and telegraph battalions. Attached to the R. E. are the Telegraph Reserve and the Railway Reserve, formed of Post Office volunteers and volunteers who work on railways, respectively. The companies of R. E. battalions vary considerably.

Supply and transport form two of the most important points in modern warfare. Hence the despatch of over a thousand officers and men of the Army Service Corps to South Africa a week in advance of Sir Redvers Buller. The Army Service Corps (A. S. C.), which is organized in companies, each company being divided into "supply" and "transport" undertakes all supply work. Transport is divided into two departments, "regimental" and "general." The former is in the hands of the battalions, regiments, batteries, etc., each unit carrying its own supplies of food, ammunition, etc., for immediate use. The general transport is entirely in the hands of the A. S. C., assisted when necessary by civilian drivers and civilians' wagons. The A. S. C. will be represented in the army corps by about 1,500 officers and men, including butchers, bakers, etc.

The Army Ordnance Corps (A. O. C.) deals with the storage and supply (but not transport) of all kinds of stores, as well as reserves of machine guns and other munitions of war, but not food, fuel or light.

The Royal Army Medical Corps (R. A. M. C.) in the army corps will number about 1,800 officers and men and 50 nurses, apart from the staff of voluntary organizations. This force is divided into surgeons, bearers and hospital orderlies. The R. A. M. C. bearers receive the wounded from the regimental stretcher-bearers and convey them to the dressing stations, thence when necessary to the field hospitals, and thence when necessary to hospitals on the lines of communication, base hospitals, and finally hospital ships.

A numerically insignificant unit in the force is the Post Office Corps of some 130 men, who are all reservists employed in the General Post Office, and are attached to the Twenty-fourth Middlesex Volunteers.

### AN ACROSTIC

**Dedicated With the Kindest of Feeling by the Writer to the Boys Wearing the Queen's Uniform.**

Britain's still—tho' the earth and the ocean,
Raging seas, and high mountains divide;
Invoking the pride of that glorious nation,
That knows no restraint in Freedom's bold stride.
Isolated tho' we be from the pageant and glory,
Sorrows and heartbreaks, that war doth entail;
Hardships we'll maintain, to prove the old story,
Called as a "Britain to Arms"—we need no detail.
Our ancestors before us fought for Freedom and Right;
Let us so endeavor their footsteps to follow;
Unity is strength—aye—in whatever fight,
Man's guide and his aid in all earthly sorrow.
Bound in our strength, to serve nobly our Queen;
India's Royal Empress—with glorious sheen,
Armed for the fray, with the "just might" of right;
Strong then to strike with the right arm of might.
Sound then the war note, each echo will ring,
Outstripping the fleetest of fleet on the wing;
Lads willing to fight as their fathers of yore—
Death loses its terror, 'mid the cannon's loud roar.
In each of their hearts, buried deep in their mind,
Eager faces tell plainly the feelings confined.
"Ready! Aye Ready!" and with no craven heart.
"Stand by the Empire"—we are ready to start.

THOMAS HARMAN.

No, we don't know what Buller is doing. But we think he does.—Hamilton Spectator.

### ORDERED TO THE FRONT.

For England! Once again out rings our battle-cry of old,
No lust of conquest taints its note, no huckster's greed of gold.
It springs from free men's souls afire, from gallant hearts a-beat,
That wave of cheers that breaks to song adown the stirring street,
Out-ringing, irresistible, up-thrilling to her throne.
The voice of England for the Right and mindful of her own,
From capital to coast it finds its echo near and far,
To light the land and warn the world what we are, we are!
It was no boast of holiday; no passing show, I ween,
That chivalry that two years gone with love engirt our Queen.
See them to-day—no gold, no gaud—in fighting khaki clad,
Commander, captain, subaltern and simple soldier lad,
Gone forth with "Duty" on each lip and "Duty" at each heart,
As went their fathers, and we know—to bear their fathers' part!
These are the builders that have set our house upon the rock,
And hold it against foes who fight and foes who dare but mock.
How ran their scoff?"—"Fine soldiers, these!—a pampered nation's toys,
A motley rabble hired with gold—half blackguards and half-boys."
Back from the battlefield to-day there comes the proud reply,
"We may be boys, we're not too young to show men how to die!
They've told us we're for ornament, they'll find that we're for use,
To fire as straight as does the foe—though not on flags of truce.
Blackguards we are not—witness bear both countryside and town,
Ask heathered hill and turfy bog and English dale and down.
Ask hearths that miss and long for us; the homes where we were born,
The mothers proud of us that pray 'God bless them' night and morn."
"God bless them one and all!" say we, "our Tommies and our Tars,
Whose four point seven seven marks the track of England's shooting stars.
Indomitable English hearts! as cool as on parade,
That face disaster's brief defeat undaunted, undismayed.
Disaster dear to those who seek to find Achilles' heel!
Who glory in the hoped-for harm they lack the pluck to deal.
Laugh, little folk! for joy to think that England's sun has set,
But Fame laughs louder than ye all—and Freedom louder yet.
Take back your spite-engendered sneer, your conscript-nurtured scorn,
Hark! to the cry that comes from East out-heralding the Morn,
And Westward of the sunset—from the Race ye so revile,
From continent to continent it sounds—from isle to isle!
From by the broad St. Lawrence—from beneath the Southern Cross,
"We—we are England's! Count with us before you count her loss!"
Longer than ocean leagues it comes and louder than its foam,
"The Motherland is calling us—we're wanted, boys, at Home!
To fight the Empire's battles and to wear the English rose."
And clarion-like and clearer still it gathers and it grows!
"Take us!" their manhood cries as one, "We heed not limb nor life!"
"Take them! they're yours! we grudge them not," cry mother, sister, wife.
"Ten thousand men to fight for you of British blood and breed,
Ay, twice ten times ten thousand shall be with you if you need.
We are as staunch as brave Natal that bears the battle's brunt.
In gear and gold and side by side fights which you at the front!"
What rule the world has ever seen, what yoke of blood and iron
Has e'er compelled such service as our England doth environ?
Rule—rule Britannia! since your rule makes ever for the Right.
Ring the round world, and with the world roll onward into light.
True country and tried colonies, God keep you safe, serene,
With one voice 'neath the Union Jack to sing "God Save the Queen!"

(Written by Henry Hamilton and recited at the Empire theatre, London, by Mrs. Brown-Potter.—From the London Daily Telegraph.

### A POET'S SOLILOQUY.

Don't feel at all inclined for work this afternoon. However, must try to knock off a few lines for the Piccadilly Gazette—usual soulful, melancholy kind. . . . Must concentrate my mind upon them. . . . Well. . . . Perhaps. . . . . Yes, I do believe I ought to have trumped that king instead of— . . . . Hullo! This won't do. Thinking of last night's whist. Must really get to work on that poem. How about title? Something vague and noncommittal for choice. . . . "Study"? "Reverie"? "Interlude"? Yes, that'll do—we'll call it "Interlude." Now to pile on the agony. Wish I didn't feel so beastly cheerful to-day! However, here goes. . . . "By melancholy grief oppressed"—rather commonplace that. Ah, obsessed, that's a much better word, quite modern and decadent. . . . "By melancholy grief obsessed, My soul is stirred in wild unrest." . . . Good! . . . "And conscious of her countless ills, Seek solace in." . . . Must alter that. Suggests "digestive pills," as the rhyme. "Ills," "fills," "kills," "hills"—nothing very promising; better try back a bit. "And conscious of unceasing care"—ah, that's it—"Shrinks from the all-monotonous fare." . . . . That reminds me, our landlady has given us mackerel for breakfast every day this week. My wife will have to speak about it. . . . Where was I? Oh, yes—"The all-monotonous fare." . . . . A fancied pleasure, false delight, Which charms the vulgar appetite." . . . . Old Johnson gave us a really first class dinner last night. Wonder if he'd let me have the recipe for that curry? . . . . "For her avails no remedy. But some mysterious harmony." There's another German band. That's the worst of these seaside places; you get this confounded music from morning to night. . . . "Soft as the pulsing wave" ("pulsing wave" is excellent!) "which flows." . . . . What comes next? Odd how inspiration seems cut at the meter halfway through a couplet. However, will look at the sea from the window and observe for myself. . . . . Tennyson's plan, I believe. . . . . "The pulsing wave which flows"—how? Much as usual, as far as I can see. Only feature at present in the foreground is a large sized woman wringing out bathing garments. Not at all poetic. . . . "The pulsing wave which flows Around the bathing woman's toes"? That won't do. . . . Better leave that verse for the present. . . . Yes, of course they may go up again. . . . Still, I'm half inclined to sell. Wonder what Jones would advise? . . . . Oh, bother those wretched shares. I really must get on with my verses. Another four lines ought to finish them. . . . Let's see. . . . "The fleeting hours go swiftly by, And —something, something,—misery." Only four syllables wanted. Try again. "The fleeting hours." . . . By jove! I pro- 4 o'clock, and it's quarter to now. So no more work to-day, and the Piccadilly Gazette will have to wait for its rhymes! —Punch.

### ROLL OF BRITISH HEROES.

**Officers Who Like Symons Have Paid with Their Lives for Brilliant Victories.**

The sad case of Gen. Symons is not without several predecessors in the history of the British Empire and the conquests which have been necessary in the building up of the same; and although the victor of Glencoe was not particularly old when he died for his country, he has left a name which is worthy of classification with those of Abercrombie, Moore and others.

One of our earliest heroes who perished at the point of victory was Sir Philip Sydney. He was sent to the Netherlands by Queen Elizabeth to command our forces taking part in the war there, and inflicted a crushing defeat upon the enemy at the battle of Zutphen. But he was not destined to receive the rewards due to him, for towards the close of the engagement a stray bullet struck him in the thigh, and he rapidly bled to death. He is chiefly remembered in connection with the incident of the water-bottle: refusing to quench his own thirst until a poor soldier, who had been carried past him badly wounded, had done so from the same flask.

The Duke of Schomberg, who led the English at the battle of the Boyne, furnishes us with the next case in point. He did not have the satisfaction of knowing that his men had won the day, for he was struck down at the outset, and his place was taken by King William III, who was also wounded in the fray.

Gen. Wolfe, the conqueror of Quebec, met a glorious death on that field at the conclusion of the batle. In 1796 he led the expedition to America, and decided to storm the Heights of Abraham, overlooking the town of Quebec, and upon which the French were strongly posted. Under cover of darkness his men crept up the hill, and when morning broke attacked the enemy vigorously. For a time we were kept at bay, and the French general, Montcalm, fell mortally wounded, but fully confident that his men would win. Later in the day Wolfe received three wounds, but lingered on until the shouts of victory told him that his work was finished.

The year 1805 will always be remembered as that in which the battle of Trafalgar was fought, and the French and Spanish fleets crushed. But, as everyone knows, it cost us the life of our greatest admiral, Lord Nelson, who fell pierced by a bullet from the fighting-top of the French man-of-war Redoubtable when the battle was almost won. Like Wolfe, he lived to hear his men proclaim the victory, then died satisfied that he had done his duty.

Sir Ralph Abercrombie perished at the battle of Alexandria in 1801, after defeating the French. The enemy were fast falling back and covering the rear treat with a well-sustained musketry fire, which resulted in Sir Ralph receiving a ball in the chest, piercing the lungs and killing him within an hour. Strange to say, he had under him Sir John Moore, who afterwards fell when he had successfully balked the French in Spain.

The story of Sir John Moore's gallant retreat at Corunna is too well known to need but brief comment. Soult was on his track with an army which nearly doubled his own in point of numbers. His only course was to give battle, and when all the ammunition had been expended, Sir John rode out at the head of his men and exclaimed: "My brave Highlanders, you have still your bayonets. Remember Egypt!" At the same time he fell from his horse, his shoulder shattered by a cannon ball, and shortly afterwards breathed his last.

The Indian mutiny claimed Sir Henry Havelock as a victim, although he was not actually killed in battle. A few days after he had relieved Lucknow, with the assistance of Sir James Outram, he was struck down by disease brought on by the rigours of the campaign, and died where he lay.

As a last instance we may mention Sir Herbert Stewart, who was in command of the force sent to relieve Gordon at Khartoum in 1885. Everyone knows the facts connected with the battles of Abu Klea and Abu Kru, and it was at the last-named place that Sir Herbert received his fatal wound and paid for the victory with his life.

### WORTHY OF MEDALS.

**Men of Clayoquot Who Risked Their Lives to Save Others.**

Since the stories have been told of the heroic work done by Constable Frederick Spain and five other residents of Clayoquot in connection with the wreck of the schooner Hera, it has been frequently suggested that some one should draw the attention of the Royal Humane Society to their bravery. All that would be necessary in this event would be, according to one who has gone through the ceremony, for the story to be plainly told and certified as correct by as many eye-witnesses of the deed of heroism as it is possible to secure and then to forward the vouched-for documents to the secretary of the society in Hamilton, Ont. As for the Clayoquot incident, a lady correspondent thus graphically describes it, the history, though previously published, being worth repeating:

"About ten o'clock Fred (Mr. Spain, the provincial constable) and several others sighted a three-masted ship at sea flying a flag of distress. They thought she was on a rock, so Fred and five others decided to go out to her, although there was a terrible sea running.

"I think you can imagine betted than I can describe my anxiety, as well as Mrs. Jacobsen's and Mrs. Brewster's, whose husbands went also. It was a very brave act, as they encountered a great deal of danger, and now have the satisfaction of knowing that they saved the lives of six men.

"When they got to the ship after a long, hard pull, they found her to be on fire, and six desperate men ready to jump into the boat as soon as she came near enough. Of course if they had done this the boat would have been swamped and all drowned, and it was only by standing up with axes in hand and calling out that the first man that jumped in would be killed that this was prevented. Then one by one they were safely got on board."

### SCOTSMAN PASSENGERS SUE.

Montreal, Dec. 11.—A number of members of the "Sign of the Cross" company and other passengers by the wrecked steamer Scotsman have instituted actions against the Dominion Line for compensation for loss of effects as well as for damages.

### A DOCTOR'S MISHAP.

Woodstock, Dec. 11.—Dr. W. W. Holdcroft, of Tweed, Ont., is not expected to live, as the result of falling off a train near here on Saturday.

## PRESS OPINION.

### A KICK FROM NANAIMO.

The condition of the public roads in South Nanaimo more especially, is a disgrace to the government. When the Turner government was in power the roads at all seasons of the year were kept in a condition which excited the praise and admiration of all those who travelled over them. Now, with a niggardly, imbecile, don't-care government in power, the roads are left to shift for themselves.—Wellington Enterprise.

### BRITAIN'S TOUGH JOB.

Unless the Boers make some egregious strategic blunder—which they are less likely to do than the British—the invading army has a task cut out for it that will tax its utmost ingenuity to master: It would not be in the least surprising if the war office were compelled to send another army corps to South Africa before Gen. Buller dines in Pretoria.—Toronto World.

### A WONDERFUL ESCAPE.

The Dutch have been plotting and conspiring for years to undermine the British supremacy—they have been arming the colonial Boers and arousing them. In two years from now there was to have been a general insurrection through South Africa, the British slaughtered, etc., but Milner has been too much for them, and has forced them to move before the right time. There is such strong evidence against leading men here as will prove their ruin as soon as things are settled. There was deep meaning in the change of the name Transvaal to "South African Republic," and in the choosing of the vieur kleur (four-color) flag. Our escape has really been wonderful.—London Graphic.

### BRAVO, MANITOBA!

Manitoba has done nobly. Such a complete turnover was totally unexpected. It sounds the knell of Grit domination and the Grit "machine" all over Canada. Every effort was made by the moribund Greenway government to regain by the application of electioneering tactics the vote which its record had lost. Cabinet ministers stumped the country and the hired thugs of the Ontario machine came out of their holes to help where specious arguments could not avail. But it was all in vain. Manitoba declared against the machine and for a business government and the Laurier government will have no difficulty in picking out the meaning of the inscription which she has left gleaming on the political wall.—Revelstoke Herald.

### SEMLIN'S BLUNDER.

If it should happen that the extension of the Columbia & eWtsern railway be carried south of Penticton to Spence's Bridge, instead of connecting with Okanogan lake, and thus side-tracking this city, the public will not fail to place the blame where it belongs—upon the shoulders of the Semlin government. The Turner administration had a contract signed providing for the completion of the road to Penticton, which agreement was promptly cancelled by the new government as soon as it came into power. This is something that will not scon be forgotten or forgiven in this district.—Vernon News.

### TIME FOR A CHANGE.

As the electors are afforded an opportunity of comparing the works of the late government with those of the present outfit, the feeling becomes more firmly rooted that it is indeed time for a change. Apart from the federal party aspect of the political situation, which is the subject of animated discussion at Victoria, the next election in British Columbia may once more resolve itself into a question of confidence in men. The blundering of the present government has wrought untold injury to the province, which will take years to efface. What is wanted more than anything else now is men—men who will conduct the affairs of British Columbia on business principles. Some believe that the Conservatives can accomplish that as a party, while there are others who believe that it would be to the best interests of the province to conduct our legislative affairs independent of federal party lines. One thing is certain, Mr. Turner never had a stronger hold on the people than he has at the present time. The wisdom of his policy is becoming more manifest.—Nelson Economist.

### JOE'S TURN TO SMILE.

It is "Joe" Martin's turn to smile. Laurier, through Sifton, turned "Joe" down after he had made the issue that placed Laurier in power. Now "Joe" has, through the Conservative party, turned Sifton down in Manitoba.—Nelson Tribune.

### IT'S AN ILL WIND," ETC.

In our last issue we pointed out the benefits which might accrue to British Columbia by reason of the troubles in Africa. We now observe that some of the London papers note that the big South African houses profess to hold a gloomy view as to the future. They think the mining industry will be much curtailed and that some portion of the cost of the war will surely fall on the mines. The outlook for revival of business is not attractive. They even say that other gold mining fields will be more attractive, and there are dark hints of migration to British Columbia and elsewhere.—Kootenay Mining Standard.

### WHY CAPITAL IS SHY.

There are a few things about this country of which our legislators appear to be lamentably ignorant or which they intentionally overlook. The first is that the country wants mines as well as miners—that in fact without the one the other is impossible. The second is that mining is more developed across the lines than it is here, and that in many instances development has shown larger ore bodies over there than it has here, which demonstrates that at the same scale of wages mines can be worked cheaper over there than here. The third thing is that our tariff operates seriously against operations here—that many of our necessary supplies are subjected to duty, as well as our product when sent across the lines to be smelted, and a further Canadian duty when returning after smelting and refining. All these things are fast driving Canadian and English capital to the States. Under the circumstances our provincial laws should all be in the direction of encouraging investments here, and operations after investment, instead of handicapping by vexations, compulsory eight-hour laws and the like, as has been the practice for years past.—Sandon Mining Record.