

Indian Contingent

Some Famous Regiments and Notable Officers Will Be Included.

The Strategic Importance of India as an Outlying Imperial Stronghold.

A military correspondent writes to the London Times:

The dispatch of a very considerable body of troops from India on Imperial service together outside the sphere of Indian interests is, of itself, an event sufficiently uncommonly important to call for detailed comment. The lines, too, on which the dispatch of the present contingent has been organized are somewhat different from those on which previous drafts upon India for purposes of military demarcation or action have been carried out. When Lord Beaconsfield brought Indian native troops to Malta in 1878 an instructive idea of vast potentialities was conveyed, but there was not involved any serious consideration of the contingent itself would be employed in an emergent campaign. As was pointed out in the Times, the troops were simply intended to be held in reserve at Malta, their presence there being an additional proof that we were "preparing to exert the whole military force of our Empire, like in Asia and Europe, in support of our interests." Other contingents, notably the mixed force which was sent to Egypt under Sir Herbert Kitchener, in 1882—which like both the Malta contingent and that about to be dispatched to South Africa, numbered some 7,000 fighting men—have been intended to fight, and have fought to some purpose. But India has never before afforded such an impressive example of its immense strategic importance as an outlying Imperial stronghold from which at most times a purely British force sufficient to maintain our supremacy pending the arrival of an army from England can be thrown in to the balance of South and East African, as well as Far Eastern, affairs.

Of course the dispatch of such a contingent as the one now under orders is favored by the approach of the troping season, notwithstanding the fact that few of the corps included are within measurable distance of the completion of their tour of Indian service. The theory is that the garrison of India contains no more troops of any sort than are absolutely necessary to meet certain well-defined contingencies. That theory would be seriously called in question if three regiments of cavalry, four battalions of infantry and three batteries of artillery were suddenly withdrawn for Imperial service at the close of a troping season. It was called sharply in question even in the case of the native troops brought by Lord Beaconsfield to Malta. Speaking in the House of Commons, Mr. Parnell pointed out that in depriving India of 7,000 troops the government could not escape the inference either that an extravagantly large army had hitherto been kept up in India or that, since the dispatch of the contingent, had inadequately garrisoned. But at the commencement of the troping season, and while it is proceeding, India can, except in times of internal or frontier disturbance, safely spare a portion of its British garrison because the depletion can always be temporarily adjusted if necessary by retaining corps which in the ordinary course of relief would be proceeding homewards. It might be difficult to recall how often in this simple manner our system of Indian reliefs has served Imperial interests.

To turn to the detail of the contingent it is clear that the appointments made to the cavalry and infantry brigades commands are purely temporary. The officers named are the senior officers present with the corps included in the two brigades, Colonel Yule being the only full colonel in the infantry brigade, while in the cavalry brigade, Colonel R. S. Baden-Powell and Lieut. Colonel B. Gourth, both of whom are senior to Lieut. Colonel Walsley-Jenkins, are absent from regimental duty, the one on special service, the other on "Europe leave." It is quite unlikely that the event of war any brigade command in the field will be held by a lieutenant-colonel, more especially when such a course would deprive one of the corps in the brigade of its commanding officer. Of the staff officers mentioned, several hold important appointments in India. Thus Major H. Mully, R. E., has been for three years deputy-assistant quartermaster-general for mobilization at India army headquarters. Lieut. Colonel J. Sherston, D. S. O., is assistant adjutant-general at Meerut; and Major E. C. Bethune, 16th Lancers, is deputy-assistant adjutant-general at Nagpur. Possibly "Major Murray, Inniskilling Dragoons," present in telegraphic myth, may turn out to be Lieut. Colonel J. W. Murray, R. A., formerly an A. A. G., in Madras, and now assistant quartermaster-general (Intelligence Branch) at Simla.

The cavalry brigade is drawn from the Punjab, Bengal and Madras commands. The Punjab has three British cavalry regiments normally quartered in it, Bengal three, and Madras two. Bombay, having only one, is naturally called upon to contribute in this direction. The 11th Hussars are to be sincerely consoled with in their misfortune in being prevented at the last moment by an outbreak of glanders from joining the contingent. The wearers of the crimson overalls have been very unlucky in the matter of war service since the days of the Crimea. The 5th (Princess Charlotte of Wales) Dragoon Guards is substitutively commanded by Colonel R. S. Baden-Powell, of Ashanti and Matopos fame, who, however, is now energetically endeavoring to safeguard the British Bechuanaland frontier in the neighborhood of Mafeking, with troops of a more rough and ready sort than those of the old "Green Horse." Formerly heaved, the 5th Dragoon Guards are now a fine specimen of a medium cavalry regiment, the lances in the front rank of which may, in the event of a

A Honolulu News Budget

Hawaiian Squatters to Pre-empt Government Lands Under American Laws.

A Valise Containing a Fortune Adrift—Steamers Earn Salvage.

According to news received from Honolulu by the steamer Aorangi the squating fever has struck Honolulu. Citizens are appropriating desirable spots and calmly informing the government that they have taken possession under the homestead laws of the United States. On September 28th—the day prior to the sailing of the Aorangi—the government received a note from James Stewart, a government lot on the side of Punchbowl hill—that hill so familiar to the visitor to Honolulu—"under the homestead laws of the United States." At first the matter struck the risibles of the ministry, and it was not until the government had had an earnest discussion in a cabinet meeting. Attorney-General Cooper was of the opinion that the homestead laws of the United States in no sense applied to government lands in Hawaii. Whether they would when the lands were actually taken over by the central authority was another matter.

President Dole insisted on the old line, that the Newlands resolution left Hawaiian lands intact, and this view was asserted by the ministers. It was decided that Mr. Ashford be notified in effect that if he moved upon the lot in question it would be considered an act of trespass, and that he would be prosecuted accordingly.

No decision has yet been arrived at in reference to the Oloa squatters.

Found the Lost Channel

Shrewd Scheme Fin's Rich Placers on Hunter's Undiscovered Channel.

A Race to Dawson for a Rich Dominion Creek Claim.

According to a story told by a late arrival from Dawson a bit of shrewd figuring by Leroy Pelletier, the use of between \$7,000 and \$8,000, and a clever plan for working the whole scheme through, culminated in a series of incidents that made important history for the Hunter creek. The shrewd figuring resulted in locating the long-lost and much-sought "old channel" that disappears to No. 35 below; and so continues to No. 60 below; the money was used to buy the rights of 80 men, and the plan followed was one which secured to the lucky discoverer and his associates every claim but one between the two points named for a comparatively trifling sum.

After some study Pelletier decided to cross the river at the point where the shrewdly figured that the gravel was so near the surface that they could kick it up with their feet. As they made their way over the old channel, their find was further confirmed by coming across two men engaged in prospecting. They were down to bedrock and had pay.

A number of men were engaged to stake claims, which were afterwards sold to Pelletier, George Pulver and Tankham for 25 cents each. The men believing they were striking for gold, they were engaged to engineer the scheme think the property is worth a million. The gravel is white like that of which the whole pay-streak on Bonanza creek is composed. The place has been named Nugget Hill.

The details of a race for a rich Dominion claim, the parallel of which is not often heard of, came out before Gold Commissioner Senker in a contest for 25 acres of hill-side claim opposite the lower half of No. 35 below lower, left limit, on Dominion.

The facts brought out by the evidence were that the claim, because of non-representation, became subject to relocation. Mr. Joel was sent out to Dawson to look after his interests. At Vancouver he bought the machinery he required and personally superintended its transmission to Dawson, and so expeditiously did he get everything forwarded that on July 11 he was enabled to write that all the machinery had arrived.

The board instructed Mr. Joel first to devote his energies to testing the value of the coal location situated at Ballarat creek, and according to a mail service received from him at the end of July work had already commenced upon the coal property. Before our manager left, the board directed him to get an independent report in order that the directors might have some general idea as to the nature of the coal and the best way of working the property. We have received two independent reports, one by Mr. George Clary, and the other by Mr. Walter Moore, C. E., who is the son of one of our largest shareholders, and who went out to the Klondike for the purpose of making an independent investigation of the country on his own account. Both reports agree that it is not high-class coal, and it is recommended that before any expenditure is made, a sufficient quantity should be raised to test its value for steam purposes. This it is proposed to do on one of the best river steamers, that practical experiments may be made to prove its value. As work according to a mail advice, has been proceeding since the end of July, we hope that by now sufficient coal will have been raised to have these proposed tests completed before the steambot service closes for the winter. Of course, if it should prove as valuable as we are led to expect, there will soon be a large demand, not only for the river steamers, but for domestic use and steam heating purposes, both on the creeks and other places where mining is carried on. With regard to the hydraulic and dredging leases, our manager has advised us by cable that these have now been granted. These are the leases situated on the Ballarat creek and Twelve Mile river. Besides the hydraulic and dredging leases, we hope in the course of a few days to hear that we have succeeded in acquiring several government claims situated at several points on the Dominion creek. Mr. Walker Moore has been sent specially to Ottawa to tender for these, and if he succeeds in his mission the board trusts that they will prove a profitable investment for the company. On September 11th Mr. Moore called: "Hydraulic and dredging leases granted in Dawson. Negotiation for block of placer claims. Developing coal." And yesterday we received another cablegram stating that he had bought three valuable claims at Skookum. Skookum is a creek upon which several good claims are located. I think you will gather from what I have said that every effort has been made to secure sufficient pro-

Goal of the Klondike

Annual Meeting of the London-Klondike Development Company.

An Expert Says the Klondike Goal Is Not of a High Class.

The largest fleet of battleships of the French navy, the Suffren, was launched at Brest recently. The vessel has a displacement of 12,728 tons, just a little under the tonnage of Her Majesty's barbettes ship Suffren, launched in 1897. The hull armor of the Suffren is of a maximum thickness of thirty centimeters, or 11.81 inches. The vessel is about 410 feet long, beam nearly 70 feet, and stern draught 27 feet. She is, furthermore, of 13,200 horse power, corresponding to a nominal speed of sixteen knots. The artillery is completely protected, from the magazine to the guns, while in other battleships of this class there is a non-protected casemate. The light plating and crew will number 63 men, four guns of 11.81 caliber, two turrets fore and aft, ten quick firing pieces a little over five inches, eight of 3.94 inches, and 22 of smaller dimensions. The armament also includes four torpedo tubes, two being under water. The order for the Suffren was given in April, 1898, and the vessel is expected to be thoroughly fit for sea in July, 1901, or 31 months after she was put on the stocks. The officers and crew will number 63 men, and the estimates have provided a sum of 2,490,887 francs for the cost of construction and equipment.—Paris Letter.

"Ah, but Count," she cried, "do you love me for myself alone?" "Yes," he replied, "you are my favorite's only child," Chicago Times-Herald.

Much as is being expected from viscose, the product of the reaction between alkali-cellulose and carbon bisulphide discovered by Cross & Bevan. It proves to be possible to spin the material, a silky cellulose thread being easily obtained. The cost is but a fraction of that of Charbonnet silk, while it is claimed to have the advantages of being non-explosive and quite unaffected by water and alkali.

R. P. RITHELT & CO., LTD.

WHISKIES: SEAGRAM'S, - THORN'S O.H.M.S., THISTLE BLEND.

BRANDIES: BONNOIT'S *** AND STANDARD BRANDS, ZYNKARA, A perfect preventative against Cholera and Pitting in Marine Boilers.

COLUMBIA FLOURING MILLS CO., ENDERBY AND VERNON

VICTORIA AGENTS, WHARF ST., VICTORIA, B.C.

bed, her family heard her scream out, and rushed into the room to find her in a nervous, frightened condition, exclaiming that a bullet had been shot into the room. She was soothed and quieted by assurances that such a thing was impossible. But later in the day she cried out again, this time insisting that a bullet had struck the window pane, and had come across the room. Sure enough, the "bullet" was found at the foot of the bed. When examined it turned out to be a wistaria pod. Then she remembered the plants in the room. They had ripened and shot their seeds. One had gone across the room, struck the window pane, and bounded back to the bed. The distance as measured was 30 feet.

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The first general (statutory) meeting of the members of the London-Klondike Development Syndicate was held on September 14th at Winchester House, Old Broad street, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. S. W. Padon.

The chairman said: "First, I must express regret at the absence of our chairman, General de la Poer Beresford, who is away in Ireland. In his absence I have been asked to preside. As you are aware, this is simply a formal meeting, which has to be held within four months of the registration of the company, to comply with the provisions of the Companies Act. Although no business is transacted at such a meeting, it gives the directors an opportunity of placing before the shareholders an account of the preliminary work of the company. Immediately after the formation of the company, Mr. Joel was sent out to Dawson to look after his interests. At Vancouver he bought the machinery he required and personally superintended its transmission to Dawson, and so expeditiously did he get everything forwarded that on July 11 he was enabled to write that all the machinery had arrived.

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JERSEY STOCK FOR SALE.

Consisting of two magnificent young bulls, one 18 mos. and the other 4 mos. old, light fawn in color; dams are 19 and 21 cows, and 10 calves from 1 to 10 years old, fine individuals from imported stock, sired by the grand young bull "Ellis's Dick St. Hubert," whose dam has a record of 21 lbs. butter per week and their dams are 16 lbs. cows, strong in the blood of St. Hubert and St. Lambert. Registered in A. J. C. O.

For prices and terms address: SMITH, Cloverbrook Farm, Chhillwack, B. C.

FOR SALE To Sportsmen, Farmers, Hunters and Trappers.

The most improved gun, breech loaded, just recently patented, Ball Set Gun, \$25.00 per doz., or \$2.50 each; sure death to all kinds of game every shot; every gun wanted. Territory rights for sale. Agents wanted everywhere.

J. R. BOOTH, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

NOTICE.

A general meeting of the Islands' Agricultural and Fruit Growers' Association will be held at the Hall, Salt Spring Island, on Saturday, Oct. 14th, at 1 p. m. to elect new officers, and transact any other business.

JOEL A. BROADBENT, Secretary.

WANTED—We will pay \$1200 a week salary to either a man or woman to represent the Midland Monthly Magazine subscription solicitor. The Midland is the same size as McClure's or the Cosmopolitan. It is now in its sixth year and is the only Magazine of this kind published in the great Central West. A handsome premium is given to each subscriber. Send 10 cents for a copy of the Midland and premium list to the Toronto City Editorial Publishing Co., St. Louis, Mo.

WANTED—\$200 per day sure, gentlemen or ladies; special work; position permanent; reliable firm, with best references; experience unnecessary. Address S. M. Fry, Field Manager, Winnipeg, Man.

WANTED—By Englishman, age 45, married, experienced with cattle, position manager a ranch on country store. "H. B.," 109 Fort street, Victoria.

London, Oct. agency published from Pretoria, terday: "An urgent handed to Mr. O ish diplomatic a plicit assurance, in 48 hours, of the Transvaal withdrawal of all South Africa si conference." Capetown, Oct. government has Great Britain. The No London, Later tenor of the me ments, which a President Krug mark dissipation of the dissipation over South Afr digested when t ment from Capet government had matum to the B at Pretoria, cau of the hopes of a may would yet. It is understood of the ministers government offic vlements are whether they are mains an engine The officials at ed all night, and rived early this In some quart the government tion of the Boer lieved in conse ment consider th ed in the positio war. Extraordinary S The reports centres show the ders are received thiasm now has crossed the irrevocable step tum. Whatever the there is no mista the great manife the war spirit, that occurred in this morning, Wales Lances to bark for South A Tens of thous homage to the li representing the the arrival of the loo Station to the church street w scene of wild en route traversed, playing nothing Queen." "Rule Save the Queen, crowds joined. The Lord M It is doubtful if come was ever be don. There was cheers and son House, the offic Mayor of London traffic was comp straggling throngs, the greatest dif Mayor, Sir John full robes of offic and cheering, colonial troops, speed" and expr the country in t tion to assist in thorty in South Sir John Moor will not be war;

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TO ATUNN.

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom friend of the maturing sun,
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With that sweet rain the vines that round the
thatcheaves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage
trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the
core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel
shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding
more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never
cease,
For summer has o'ertopped their clammy
cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy
store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may
find
The sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing
wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fumes of poppies,
while the hook
Sparcs the next swath and all its twined
flowers.
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost
keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cider press, with patient look
Thou watchest the last oozings, hours by
hours.

Where are the songs of spring? Ay, where
are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music
too—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying
day,
And touch the stubble-plains with
rosy
hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats
mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly
bores.
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble
soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-
craef;
And gathering swallows twitter in the
skies.

—Keats.

The weakest living creature, by concentrating his powers on a single object, can accomplish something. The strongest, by continually falling, bores its passage through the hardest rock. The hasty torrent rushes over it with hideous uproar and leaves no trace behind.—Carlyle.

"It seems real generous of him to let his wife and daughter go off for the summer and leave him at home alone." "Oh, I don't know. Probably he needed the rest himself."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Stemmers Maui and Kinau.

The transport Belgian King arrived at Honolulu from San Francisco on the 25th, and her master, Captain Weiss, had a troublesome time getting away from the island port, and when he returns he is likely to find more trouble awaiting him. His present difficulties arose over some bills for merchandise purchased at Honolulu, and his prospective troubles lie in the island port, and when he returns he is likely to find more trouble awaiting him. His present difficulties arose over some bills for merchandise purchased at Honolulu, and his prospective troubles lie in the island port, and when he returns he is likely to find more trouble awaiting him. His present difficulties arose over some bills for merchandise purchased at Honolulu, and his prospective troubles lie in the island port, and when he returns he is likely to find more trouble awaiting him.

PLANTS WHICH SHOOT BULLETS.

Many common garden plants shoot bullets not as big nor as hard as those from a gun, but they go quite as far and are as effective proportionately. If the plants which shoot them were as big as a gun these vegetable bullets might do great damage. As it is, battles taken place between plants during which the bombardments are fierce enough while they last. The common wistaria has been known to shoot a bullet over 50 feet.

This curious property is the result of Nature's effort to scatter the seeds as far as possible. Many plants have seeds which are held, so to speak, in a state of tension. As the plant grows its fibers become stretched, until when the capsule bursts open violently, and the seeds literally are hurled in every direction. The wistaria has seeds which in size and shape are much like a pistol bullet, and as the plant grows to grow on hillsides and on eminences, the distances these vegetable bullets travel before touching the ground is very great. The wild geranium is another plant that hurls its seeds in all directions.

The story is told of an invalid lady who had placed some wistaria plants near her bed, and forgot them. Some time afterwards, when she lay sick in

the bed, she was startled by a loud report, and she saw a bullet flying through the air. She was so frightened that she called for help, and the doctor, when he came, found her in a state of great excitement. She told him of the wistaria plants, and he explained to her that the seeds of the wistaria were so small and so light that they were blown about by the wind, and that she had been struck by one of them.

George Dietz a Honolulu jeweller, has just recovered a watch, which he lost 20 years ago while fighting at Gettysburg. He was charged for the watch, but he had placed some wistaria plants near her bed, and forgot them. Some time afterwards, when she lay sick in

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