

European Topics

Discussed by Cable Correspondents--The Transvaal Situation--A Warning to Kruger--Reasons for British Intervention.

The Voice of Chamberlain the Voice of England--National Crisis Approaching in Russia--Religious Polemics Revived in England--American Travel to Europe at High Water Mark.

London, June 19.—Mr. Henry Norman, in his cable letter, dwells at great length upon the Transvaal situation. In part, he says: The unexpected publication on Thursday of Sir Alfred Milner's long dispatch on May 4, every word cabled as of extreme urgency, added enormously to the gravity of the situation in the Transvaal. Hitherto the high commissioner has maintained a scrupulously cautious attitude, and has even subjected himself to hostile criticism by throwing cold water upon the acts of the Uitlander population in the Transvaal. Now he puts the whole case logically, convincingly and even passionately.

WORSE THAN SUPPOSED. The situation is worse, it appears, than the country had supposed. For example, as I cabled last week, we all believed the shooting of Edgar was an incident in a drunken brawl. Now we learn from Sir Alfred Milner's reply to High Commissioner Kruger, that the Boer police broke into the house of Edgar, a respectable British workman, in the middle of the night, to arrest him, without a warrant, for an alleged offense committed some time previously. When he resisted this illegal arrest they shot him dead, and a Boer judge and jury approved their action. Another example of the Boer methods is the case of Mrs. Appleby, the wife of a Wesleyan missionary, who had attacked the illicit drink traffic. No police action followed this outrage. Again, Field Cornet Lombard entered the houses of a number of colored British subjects at night, without a warrant, dragged them from their beds had the men beaten and kicked, and treated the women with such cruelty that one was prematurely confined, and a child died of fright. As a consequence of the pressure brought to bear, Lombard was suspended, but subsequently was reinstated.

REASONS FOR INTERVENTION. The case for intervention, Sir Alfred Milner says, is overwhelming. He adds: The spectacle of thousands of British subjects kept permanently in the position of Helots, constantly chafing under undoubted grievances, and calling vainly on her Majesty's Government for redress, does steadily undermine the influence and reputation of Great Britain and the respect for the British Government within the Queen's dominions. The seriousness of the crisis is shown by the fact of the British Government publishing such a dispatch as this, which, from another point of view, is also unprecedented. Sir Alfred Milner, as high commissioner for South Africa, is an independent official, responsible only to the British Government, but as the governor of Cape Colony, he is supposed, by the constitutional theory, to act upon the advice of his government, which at the present moment is Afrikaner or English-speaking Dutch. Yet in this dispatch he states that language is frequently used which seems to imply that one was some superior right, even in this colony, to their fellow-citizens of English birth.

BRITISH EXASPERATION. Thousands of men, peaceably disposed, and, if left alone, perfectly satisfied with their position as British subjects, are being drawn into the disaffection, and there is a corresponding exasperation on the side of the British. Already members of the Cape ministry are protesting against this implication of disloyalty, and it is quite possible that Sir Alfred Milner's words. It is impossible to exaggerate the seriousness of such an incident in a British colony. Were Sir Alfred an excitable or inexperienced man, his recall would be inevitable. He is, however, the exact contrary, and commands profound and universal respect and confidence. Therefore, the Saturday Review is well advised when it says that the Transvaal question can be settled now in only three ways: First, by the sacrifice of Sir Alfred Milner; second, the immediate admission of a large number of uitlanders to the franchise; or, third, by the armed intervention of Great Britain. This first is inconceivable; the second is improbable; and the third, the absence of the other two, is certain.

WAR EXPECTED. The London papers have warned their war correspondents to be ready to start for the Cape, and at Lloyd's great insurance center 12½ per cent of assurance against war within three months has been paid by members of the stock exchange, and 2 per cent on the insurance of buildings in Johannesburg for three months. Nevertheless, I repeat what I said last week, that war is not in sight. Already President Kruger has begun to move.

KRUGER MOVES. He now denies that the arbitration of a foreign power was made a condition precedent to the extension of the franchise, which it certainly was. He also offers to increase the number of representatives from the gold fields district, and adds that participation in the Jameson raid he has no bar to enfranchisement—all this in spite of the fact that on his return he said that there may be war. But I will give no more. The pressure by the British Government will continue. Possibly before long this may take the shape of a movement of troops to South Africa. Already the more thoughtful of the Boers are beginning to say that they have had enough of the agitation.

ACQUISITION OF DELAGOA BAY. It must be remembered, too, that the whole question may at any moment take a great step forward, by the acquisition of Delagoa Bay by this country. Only certain combined personal and pecuniary considerations in Portugal, about which it would be indiscreet to say more, block the way.

The Liberal party has postponed any action in parliament until the text of the Bloemfontein negotiations is received from High Commissioner Milner. But in these days anything seems enough to split the Liberal party. At first the Chronicle declared that war on such an issue would be infamous; it has now progressed to the point of declaring that the Birmingham Post does not exaggerate it when it says: "On this Transvaal question the voice of Chamberlain is the voice of England. The Chronicle for many years has been regarded as the organ of the great body of non-conformist Liberals, but today this is reversed."

NO WAR TALK. Another correspondent cables: South Africa still holds the field as the one subject of absorbing interest; there is no war talk, and there has been no uneasiness in the stock market. If war had been seriously apprehended, there would have been a big selling movement in mining stocks, but nothing of the kind has happened. The publication of Sir Alfred Milner's and Mr. Chamberlain's long dispatches, written before the conference, was sharply criticized by several Liberal journals, on the ground that future negotiations would be seriously impeded by the publicity given to them. This was a superficial view. Sir Alfred Milner's dispatch was a most powerful statement of the grievances of British subjects in the Transvaal, and has produced a profound impression in England and in South Africa. Mr. Chamberlain made no mistake when he brought these two weighty documents out of the official pigeon-hole. President Kruger has been depending upon a Liberal demonstration against the government's policy in South Africa, but he is now likely to be disappointed.

CRISIS IN RUSSIA APPROACHING. A St. Petersburg correspondent claims a national crisis is fast approaching in Russia. He says that the national labor troubles at Riga, the disturbances of the students and the famine in various parts, are symptoms of greater trouble. He adds that he has reliable information enabling him to say that perfect demoralization prevails in the upper government circles of Russia, owing to the opposing influences of the czar on one side and his mother on the other.

CHURCH WAR REVIVED. Religious polemics have been revived by Lord Halifax's address read before the English Church Union, which has set evangelical teeth on edge, and given opportunists generally a cold chill. Instead of confining himself to safe generalities about the essential catholicity of the English Church, he charges that the present agitation is got up and paid for by that puritanism which nearly destroyed the church in the time of Elizabeth, and also lays great stress upon auricular confession, and appeals to what he describes as the whole body of the Catholic Church to support his position. The proceedings of the Church Union were moderate than the president's address, and Canon Knox Little declared with emphasis that high churchmen were law-abiding men, who were contending for the reformation settlement and for the liberties of the church.

WILL FOLLOW THE DRUM. The Duke of York has decided that his son Edward will ultimately enter the army and join the Tenth Hussars, of which the Prince of Wales is colonel, and the late Duke of Clarence was an officer. This decision, it is said, has greatly disappointed the navy.

THE TRANSVAAL. London, June 19.—The Transvaal situation is still the all-absorbing topic of discussion in Great Britain, and even the continent has caught the disease, though in a less virulent form. Outwardly the question seems to have advanced but little, though those who are inside think the cause of the Uitlanders has gone up several pegs. The publication of the Transvaal blue book with the emphatic denunciation of Transvaal methods, setting forth in measured paragraphs the alleged political, financial and judicial incompetence of the administration of President Kruger, and adopting as part of the government's own programme all the grievances of the Uitlanders, constitute a step of the highest import. It was

AN UNMISTAKABLE WARNING. to the Transvaal as well as an indication to the people of South Africa generally that the government has arrived at a fixed decision, impossible to recede from, and there is not lacking indications that the hint has not been lost at Pretoria. Although it is difficult to separate fact from fiction in the multiplicity of conflicting stories, it is the general impression of those in a position to know that the conciliatory dispatch which Dr. Leyds, the representative in Europe of the Transvaal, received June 14, represents the true situation, while President Kruger's defiant speech of the same day was merely intended for home consumption. The opinion is now growing that the delay necessitated in awaiting Sir Alfred Milner's full report of the Bloemfontein conference will make for a peaceful settlement. As an official in the close confidence of the government declared, it will give President Kruger "time to get his house in order." But unless the talked of concessions are speedily inaugurated momentous consequences are predicted.

The position in England of the secretary of the colonies, Mr. Chamberlain, however, is steadily declining, and the emphatic suggestion is heard in influential quarters to transfer the conduct of the negotiations from the colonial to the foreign office.

TREND OF TRAVEL. The tide of American travel to Europe was at high-water mark the

past week, and as a result, not only are the London hotels turning people away, but visitors are lucky if they find ordinary lodgings. Steamships, which arrived had from 800 to 1,200 passengers on board. In fact, one brought 1,300. The evening scenes at the fashionable hotels are almost a counterpart of those witnessed at the Waldorf and the Savoy, New York. Every phase of American life is represented. Besides the immense flow of tourists, it is calculated that more American financial schemes have been floated, and that more London branches of American manufacturing have been established than ever before.

COMMERCIAL RIVALRY. The influx of American commercial men is a constant surprise to Englishmen, who are just beginning to realize what American business rivalry means. Entire sections of streets here are now lined with the signs of American firms in every line of trade. A prominent Manchester iron man said to a correspondent of the Associated Press: "The main significance of this impouring of manufacturing firms is that the Americans are not only underselling us here, but they are making their agencies bases from which they are gradually reaching out into every country in Europe. I know of an immense Cleveland concern which established an agent here who for a year did not undertake an English order, wholly confining himself to Germany, France and Russia. Now the concern has more orders from England alone than it can supply, and the agent has been instructed not to book another order for six months."

The shoe trade has also been greatly agitated by the immense increase in American imports to England, which has increased 45 per cent during the last ten months. The American shoe dealer has been gradually walking over here as it becomes better known. HARVEST FIELD FOR ELECTRICIANS. Vice-President Albert Johnson, of the Nassau Electric Street Railroad, of Brooklyn, has been investigating electrical traction prospects here and will return home on the Majestic. He said to a representative of the Associated Press: "London is the greatest field in the world for the future development of electric surface roads. I have made only a preliminary reconnaissance here, but shall return in a few weeks, when I expect to thoroughly take up the project. There is no doubt London in a few years will afford an immense market for American electrical appliances and road-making machinery."

In connection with the above statements, the London County Council on Tuesday ordered its committee to report on the practicability of constructing a subway underground electric railroad from Westminster to the Bank of England, and thence northward on a principle similar to those of Boston.

TOP-HEAVY STEAMERS. With reference to the reports that the cruisers Albany and New Orleans, purchased here by the United States Government, have been found top-heavy and unseaworthy, the correspondent of the Associated Press saw Col. Watts, the naval constructor of the Albany, who said: "If the Albany and New Orleans are untrustworthy, many ships of the British navy, built at the same date, are also useless, as the Albany and New Orleans were built for the service sanctioned by Sir William White, chief naval constructor, and bear comparison in speed, and every other essential with any vessel of their class built at that date."

AUSTRALIAN TOBACCO. Tobacco growers and dealers are awaiting with interest the arrival of the first important shipment of the leaf from Victoria, Australia, now en route. The samples are regarded as very fine, and it is believed the leaf will secure ready sale at good prices. The tobacco was grown under the superintendence of a Kentucky grower, who was invited by the Victorian Government to test the experiment. THE GERMAN CANAL SCHEME. A Berlin dispatch says: The canal bill engrossed attention last week, and the papers had much to say pro and con, according to party standpoint. The ultimate fate of the bill concerns America, as the construction of the network of canals adjoining the three great rivers of Prussia, the Elbe, Rhine and Weser, and the far eastern provinces, these bordering on the German Ocean, will cheapen and facilitate the freights of American exports, in the most contemptible fashion of other bulky goods. Another point interesting to America is the fact that the Prussian agrarians, and these parties affiliating with them, the Conservatives, Reichstag and a portion of the center, have made the bill a test of strength between them and the government, and almost a personal contest between them and the emperor, who, with the entire Prussian majesty left no doubt this week that he strongly wishes the great canal to be built.

WHEAT FIRM

English Wheat in Ample Supply—Conditions of Crops in European Countries.

London, June 19.—There has not been much activity in the wheat market since the purchases have generally been for immediate wants.

Only home wheat has continued in ample supply, but the demand is showing no increase and trade has made slow progress. Sellers, however, are requiring rather better prices. Foreign descriptions have not engaged much attention, but with only moderate supplies on offer rates have tended in the holder's favor.

The appearance of spring wheat in England is very favorable. Corn, however, shows signs of a need of rain. The close of Friday night's market found foreign sorts quiet, but well maintained in value.

According to the Mark Lane Express the following is the condition of the wheat crops in different countries:

France—The condition of crops is excellent in general, particularly of cereals, which give promise of passing through the earing and blooming phases without hindrance.

Belgium—Cereal crops are progressing well.

Germany—Crops do not look as promising as last year.

Italy—Wheat is satisfactory. Hungary—With the cessation of rain the increase of rust is materially arrested, and a more confident feeling is gaining ground.

Roumania—Drought continues, and the hope of a revival of the wheat fields from timely rain are almost extinguished.

Bulgaria—Crops are reported in bad condition generally.

Russia—Continued complaints of drought come from the southern districts. The outlook for crops is very indifferent.

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Shirt Waists and Blouses.

Shirt Waists and Blouses are more popular this season than ever, and we are having all we can get of the Shirt Waist Section. This week we are showing

"New Effects and Designs," at 39c, 75c, \$1, \$1.25 and \$1.50 See our Special Gingham Blouses, at 75c

Corsets.

Our Corset Stock is extensive; we keep the best known makes and newest figures.

Summer Corsets at 29c, 50c and 69c

New Wash Goods.

Our trade in Wash Goods has been beyond our expectations. But we intend doubling it this week. Our stock is of the very brightest description, and you have only to see it to be satisfied it is correct.

White Fiques, very special, at 15c to 50c Ask to see our 36-inch Pique at 15c Gingham and Percales; new goods, in stripes and plaids, for dresses and shirt waists. Special, at 12½c, 15c, 20c and 25c Summer Crash, 36 inches wide, at 12½c, 15c, 20c and 25c White Duck Suitings, 27 inches wide, at 10c, 12½c, 15c, 20c and 25c Colored Galatea and Satin Drills, in navy and other blues, the correct thing for Skirts, at 15c, 18c, 20c, 25c and 35c

Whitewear.

We are busier than ever in White Goods. Just now ladies are looking after their summer needs, and with them this department is deservedly popular. This week we offer three special lines in Gowns, which you can't afford to miss.

See the Gowns at 65c each, worth \$1. See the Gowns at \$1 each, worth \$1.75. See the Gowns at \$1.50 each, worth \$2.75.

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Scarce goods. We have them, and we have them at the right price. Special, per yard 12½c, 15c, 20c and 25c

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25c, 35c and 50c Quality Sailor Hats, at 12c each 50c, 75c, \$1 and \$1.25 Quality Sailor Hats, at 25c each Also a complete assortment of Knox Sailor Hats, at \$1. \$1.25 to \$2 each

Dress Goods Special.

One table Colored Dress Goods, 63 pieces, made up of serges, satin twills, fancy checks, poplins and silk and wool figured goods; regular 50c, 65c and 75c a yard; all one price to clear, per yard 35c

22 ends Black Mohair Crepons, worth \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2 a yard; all one price while they last 100

Black Silk Grenadines, in small wave designs, stripes and checks, handsome bright silk goods, selling at, per yard 75c, \$1 and \$1.50

Flowers and Ribbons.

200 bunches Flowers and Sprays, worth 50c to 75c a bunch, selling at 15c and 25c a bunch while they last. Pure Silk Ribbons, 6 to 8 inches wide, worth 50c to 75c a yard, all one price 25c

Hosiery and Underwear.

Ladies patronizing this department will find an assortment of Hosiery and Underwear second to none in this city, and lower in price. A special line of Ladies' Black Cotton Hose, spliced soles and heels, fast dye, worth 25c a pair; this week 2 pairs for 35c

Bath and Bedroom Towels.

We are doing better than ever. Plain, Pure Linen Bath Towels, each 37½c, 45c, 50c and 65c

Cotton Bath Towels, good wearers, in red stripes and self-colors, at 25c, 35c, 45c and 50c a pair, large size.

Linen Bedroom Towels, special lines at 20c, 25c, 35c, 50c and 75c a pair.

Linen Towels, 18, 22, 24 and 27 inches wide, selling at 5c, 7c, 9c, 12½c, 15c to 30c a yard.

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HON. DAVID MILLS

A Letter From One Who Knows Him—The Telegram's Attacks.

The following letter appears in the Toronto World, a Conservative paper: Editor World: For some inexplicable cause the Evening Telegram has kept up a fusillade on the minister of justice, Hon. David Mills. When there was nothing happening in the political arena calling for any special strictures on the policy of the justice department, this journal would blossom out in abuse of the head of that department, seeking to ridicule or belittle him.

Sometimes these notices would appear in sneering paragraphs or in a short leading article with a flaring headline, "A Dangerous Federalist," etc., or by a weak and ambiguous cartoon, or it would even descend to write in the most contemptible fashion of the poetry which the minister occasionally throws off.

Now the actions of our public men are open to fair and stringent criticism, but there ought to be in all references to those who conduct the public business at least some grounds on which to base these observations. But in many of the bitter animadversions upon the minister of justice these have been wanting. Occasionally the Evening Telegram has called attention in an offensive way to the fact that the minister of justice was called to the bar late in life. It was true. Mills was called to the bar at a period in life much later than the rule, but what of the years of assiduous toil and preparation by study of such a nature that peculiarly fitted him for taking the high position he at once took in Canada as an authority on constitutional law and history. To say nothing of many hard, useful years spent in the region of practical parliamentary procedure and politics?

This Telegram charges that Mr. Mills is a dangerous Federalist. This is quite a mistake. He has an ardent, keen, appreciation of provincial questions, with an intimate knowledge of their delicacies and varied intricacies as is not possessed by any other Canadian statesman. A quarter century spent in upholding these rights gives the lie to any charge of his being a dangerous Federalist.

But this does not blind him to rights of the Dominion, which as the minister of justice, he is bound by his oath to maintain.

He is an eminently fair-minded man, but he is something more. He is a safe adviser. If anyone imagines Mr. Mills is a merely theoretical lawyer or book-worm, he will be woefully disillusioned if he tackles him. He has firmness and clearness and the characteristics of a judicial mind, and the grasp of the essential features of a question that is startling in its breadth and retentiveness. He is withal, a ready man. He knows his law and where to find it, and when he gives his opinion he is prepared then and there to support his contention by good, sound and reliable precedents.

It will be time enough for the Telegram to sneer when he has been proved wrong in any of his decisions. The man who undertakes to controvert Mr. Mills' legal opinions successfully has a hard and almost hopeless task. His administration of the affairs of his department has been most satisfactory. He is always to be found at his post early and late—kind, attentive, courteous and thorough, but having no time to waste on trifles or office-seekers. His patient and constant de-

HARPER'S ROUND TABLE

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CALEDONIA MINE DISASTER

Eleven Persons Perished—Ten Bodies Recovered—The Pit Still on Fire.

Halifax, N. S., June 19.—It appears that the Caledonia mine disaster death list will not number more than eleven. There are said to be others missing.

The first explosion took place at five minutes to 4. This was followed by another at 5 o'clock. The coal in the west deep, as well as the timber, is on fire. The volunteers who were in the pit all morning had to come to the surface, being unable to get near the fire for smoke and gas. Thomas Brown, manager of Caledonia, went down with the rescue volunteers, and was knocked senseless by the explosion, but will recover.

So far it has been found impossible to extinguish the fire in the pit. Donald Martin's body has not been found.

HE HAD BAD EXPERIENCE.

[Puck.] Cassidy—The investigating committee could find out nothing whatever from Kelly! They questioned him for six hours, too! Kerrigan—Shure and Oi knew they'd slip up on Kelly—he's married three times!

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