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Managing Director and Editor, John Cameron

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The Minister of Finance.

It was a pleasing tale which Hon. W. S. Fielding, Dominion Minister of Finance, had to tell the great crowds gathered to hear him and his colleagues, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Railways and Canals, during their recent tour in Ontario. And it was well told, for Mr. Fielding is not only an able statesman and careful departmental administrator, but he is a good platform speaker as well. His long training as a newspaper editor taught him how to compress the greatest amount of information into the least possible space, while at the same time illuminating what might otherwise be regarded as dry figures with timely illustrations. When the new tariff, with its provision for the preferential treatment of British goods, was introduced, the Opposition leader and Mr. Foster, ex-Finance Minister, bewailed the outlook for the Dominion. They asserted that the reductions in the tariff would be most disastrous to the manufacturers of the country, and fatal to the welfare of the workers. This was their view when the tariff was introduced, but as time has passed, and instead of disaster, prosperity has been vouchsafed to every industry, beginning with farming—the great staple employment of the Dominion—there has been, as Mr. Fielding points out, a change of tune. The Opposition leaders are now endeavoring to make believe that the tariff has not been reduced—that it is the same old "N. P." They do not promise any reduction if they were to be given power, but they say the present Government ought to reduce the tariff to a very much greater extent, or be convicted of failure to carry out their promise while in Opposition. To this peculiar criticism Hon. Mr. Fielding had a ready answer. The tax rates were not only reduced by the general tariff, but also by the British preferential tariff, on a large number of articles. The tax on binder twine and barbed wire was entirely taken off, and the duties on woolen clothing, which under the policy of the late Government, were as high as 40, 50 or even 70 per cent, were reduced to 35 per cent, and under the preferential tariff to 25 per cent. Mr. Foster has talked about averages, and says: "On an average the reductions have had to pay \$2,000,000 more than was collected from them. This year the saving to the people, through the revenue tariff of the present Government, promises to be over \$3,000,000. Sir Charles Tupper has asserted that the British preferential tariff is a fraud. Mr. Fielding has but to turn to the official trade returns for the past two years to show how much the Opposition leader is mistaken. The exports from Canada and the United States of five leading staple food products are given to show how great has been the change since the preferential tariff was put in force:

	1897.	United States.	Canada.
Apples	\$2,443,000	\$1,355,000	2,540,000
Bacon	26,015,000	2,540,000	4,935,000
Beef	22,400,000	55,000	55,000
Butter	3,079,000	2,162,000	2,162,000
Eggs	205,000	422,000	422,000
Totals	\$54,145,000	\$7,056,000	
	1898.	United States.	Canada.
Apples	\$1,354,000	\$2,179,000	2,179,000
Bacon	31,000,000	4,935,000	4,935,000
Beef	22,632,000	1,682,000	1,682,000
Butter	2,356,000	3,217,000	3,217,000
Eggs	325,000	1,223,000	1,223,000
Totals	\$58,297,000	\$13,139,000	

And this is but the beginning. Had the counsels of the opponents of the present Government been followed, there would have been no preferential tariff until such time as the Mother Country agreed to discriminate in favor of the Dominion—a policy which neither of the two great political parties seems inclined to adopt. Already we are reaping the benefits of the new departure, but we may expect a much greater demand for our products in the near future. The Finance Minister was equally effective in his reply to the criticism of the expenditures of the Government. The simple fact, which critics of the Administration ought at all times to be made to face, is that last year the Administration received \$5,000,000 more in revenue than they expended—so great has been the material prosperity of the country. In 1895, a fair test year for the late Ministry, seeing they were then preparing to go to the country for approval of their acts, the Conservative leaders expended \$4,000,000 more than they received. The criticism as to the amount of money voted to run the country, to improve its canals, to aid in constructing lines for the opening up of the country, and to extend the Government line of railway to the commercial capital of the country, were easily and satisfactorily met by the Finance Minister. He was able to show that they were in the public interest, every one of them, that they were undertaken without adding to the burdens of the people, and that the Opposition, ever alert for something to kick about, only opposed by their vote the expenditure of some \$30,000 out of the total sum voted.

The visiting Ministers have had a most cordial reception, and their candid, straightforward discussion of public affairs has proved highly instructive and beneficial to the public.

Mr. Menier, of Aricoati, has won his ejection suit against the Fox Bay, but he offers to pay the costs of the case, and to give each of the settlers an in-

The Chief Topic

Treated by Cable Correspondents--Fortnight of Delay--Britain Anxious for the Fate of Her Soldiers--Chances Against the Boers.

British War Office Charged With Suppressing News--Progress of the Hospital Ship Project--Buller's Plans--Attitude of the Powers--Scenes at the War Office.

London, Nov. 6.—The evacuation of Colenso is undoubtedly a most serious matter for the British in Natal, as it not only testifies to the complete investment of Ladysmith by the Boers, but makes the relief of Gen. Sir George Stewart White an extremely difficult operation. Colenso is the point where the railway from Ladysmith crosses the Tugela River, which is now in flood. The town itself is of small importance. It is dominated by the hills on the north side of the river, and so was untenable if the Boers had advanced, as they seem to have done. Moreover only a small naval and colonial force was stationed at Colenso.

THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE EVACUATION.

As a matter of fact, granting Gen. White possesses the qualities of fair generalship, there are many reasons to believe he will be able to hold out until reinforced, even if completely surrounded. It is presumed he has employed the past weeks in strengthening his position with earthworks and trenches, which, when manned by such fighters as the Gordons and Irish Fusiliers, can be taken without a terrible struggle. His artillery has now been reinforced by the naval brigade, and even if it is not a match for that of the Boers, it is a formidable force. The enemy from coming to too close quarters. He has an abundance of stores and apparently has been favored by good weather.

JOUBERT'S STAY IN NATAL.

Military men predict that Gen. Joubert will withdraw from Natal immediately Gen. Buller's force enters the Orange Free State, but the latter cannot be far on his way for at least three or four weeks, and even then Gen. Joubert may not decide to intercept the British in the open field, which would suit the British admirably, but he may wait until the last moment and then proceed by train back to Pretoria and take up strong defensive positions on the range of hills lying in front of Johannesburg and Pretoria. Thus Gen. Joubert might remain in Natal several weeks longer endeavoring to force Sir George White into capitulation, the destruction of the Tugela River bridge helping him by cutting off British relief. Moreover, another Boer force is reported to have marched through Zululand in the direction of Durban, and already to have reached the Natal frontier.

Thus it will be seen the position in Natal, taking into consideration a possible uprising of the disaffected Dutch, is most disquieting—in fact, may be described as critical. British reinforcements in any number cannot reach Durban before the end of next week.

BOERS MOVING ON LADYSMITH.

A special from Ladysmith, dated Nov. 2, morning, says: During the night the Boers moved closer to the British positions and mounted guns in fresh places. Meanwhile the naval guns have been moved to more desirable positions near the town and commanding some of the Boer batteries. At 4 o'clock in the morning Gen. White ordered the bombardment of the enemy, and the bluejackets opened the ball. The Boers replied vigorously. They fired straight, and some of the British were hit. A terrible artillery duel went on for over three hours. So far the naval guns are the only ones that have engaged the enemy.

PREPARING TO INVADE CAPE COLONY.

Late dispatches show that the forces of the Orange Free State are preparing to invade Cape Colony. These forces are not overwhelming, but to the Dutch in the neighborhood of Colesburg and Burgersdorp are exceptionally pro-Boer, and their support is evidently expected. The objective of the force of Boers will probably be Naauwpoort, one of the most important strategic railroad points in South Africa, and which will probably be, it is said, the advance depot of the second division of the army corps. Naauwpoort is understood to be well garrisoned, and able to take care of itself. Trains thence to Colesburg have been almost suspended.

SKIRMISHING WITH BOERS.

A Port Tull dispatch, dated Oct. 26, says shots were exchanged between Col. Plumer's column and the Boers at Pontdrift. The British had one man wounded. The enemy's loss was unknown. A British patrol captured five Boers. It was then believed the bulk of the Boer army had retired from Port Tull, going south and leaving an outpost. Two gunners were lost in the bush, and it is feared they died of thirst. Col. Plumer was still sending reconnoitering parties up and down the river, and there was little doubt the enemy had retired. Spreckley's patrol exchanged a few shots with the enemy on Oct. 23. Capt. White and Glynn with 20 men reconnoitered a kopje at Pontdrift. Capt. Glynn approached it on one side, and Capt. White on the other. The enemy's loss was unknown. The Boers' rifle fire wounded four of the British. The natives say two Boers were killed in the skirmish of Oct. 23 at Port Tull.

LIEUTENANT MADE COMMANDER.

Gunnery Lieut. Egerton, of the British cruiser Powerful, who was wounded by the explosion of a shell at the bombardment of Ladysmith, has been promoted to the rank of commander for services in the field. His legs have been amputated as a result of his wounds. The officer is a nephew of the Duke of Devonshire.

A LONG WAIT.

London, Nov. 6.—Days, perhaps weeks, may pass before word comes from the isolated British force in the neck of Natal, and the long wait will strain as does a death-bed watch. Whatever may be the justness of the criticisms passed on Gen. White, it is palpable that he no longer possesses the confidence of the public. He may be fully able to withstand the attacks of the superior Boer force, and may be

ready at any moment to execute a masterly retreat, but, as he is cut off from communication with the outside world, there will exist terrible anxiety regarding the welfare of the 7,000 or 8,000 men of his command.

FORTNIGHT OF SUSPENSE.

The most optimistic believe that a fortnight is the minimum in which reinforcements of any potentiality can be pushed to Ladysmith, and then it may be too late. It is this interim, embittered by the vivid memory of recent disaster, which will try the temper of the British nation, which, embarked in the war with stupendous over-confidence, and which has now awakened to the realization of the fact that if Gen. White's force is annihilated, it will cause an indefinite prolongation of hostilities, though, it is said here, of course it can only defer and not alter the ultimate result.

FAIRLY EVEN CHANCES.

Combining these advantages with the military truism that the opportunity to select your own position is half the battle won, it is said that there seems to remain to Gen. White fairly even chances of holding out for a fortnight, the report that he is outnumbered two or even three to one.

THE HOSPITAL SHIP MAINE.

The American women who are equipping the hospital ship Maine are making particular efforts to have it understood that the movement is entirely devoid of political significance, as the Red Cross knows no politics, and will treat Britain and Boer alike. The fitting out of the vessel is attracting wide attention in England, and the efforts of the American women are given the heartiest recognition.

In accordance with the wishes of the Prince of Wales, Mrs. Brown-Potter has selected Nov. 15 as the date for the Cafe Chantant benefit for the Maine.

The possibility of Lady Randolph Churchill accompanying the Maine to the Cape of Good Hope has aroused much interest here. Her ladyship said to a representative of the Associated Press: "The question of my going is dependent upon several contingencies. It is quite possible that I may go, but the matter has not yet been fully determined upon." Lady Churchill has taken the most active part in the scheme to fit out the Maine.

BULLER'S PLAN.

New York, Nov. 6.—The London correspondent of the Tribune, cabling as to the probable plan to be adopted by Gen. Buller, says: Gen. Buller's plan of campaign is a secret, which is not known even at the war office, and is certainly not to be confided to any war correspondent. He received full advice and suggestions from Lord Wolseley and Sir Evelyn Wood before leaving London, but retained absolute liberty of action. The military experts here can only surmise respecting his probable course and tactics.

RESULTS OF PROVINCIAL CON-TROL.

It is now well known that the Natal officials were largely responsible, not only for the separation of the field force into two camps forty miles apart, but also for the selection of Ladysmith as a post which must be defended at all hazards, and it is alleged that they made strenuous efforts to have Ladysmith defended. Naturally they were anxious to have Upper Natal defended, and their counsels prevailed except in the single detail of the occupation of Ladysmith. The retreat from Glencoe and the defense, under the worst possible conditions, of Ladysmith, where the town is commanded by several concentric circles of outlying hills, are the results of provincial control over military plans.

WHAT EXPERTS SAY.

Skilled experts do not hesitate to say that Glencoe should never have been occupied, and Ladysmith should only have been held temporarily and without concentration there of the supplies and military stores, the garrison returning behind Tugela, destroying bridges and drawing the Boers further from their base, and conducting a dilatory and defensive conflict until the reinforcement of their force. Gen. Buller is not likely to pay any attention to suggestions or appeals of the provincial authorities. He will deal with the situation on purely military lines. He is not a diplomatist, but a self-reliant, obstinate military martinet of great force of character. He

WILL MAKE HIS OWN PLANS.

and will not be dissuaded from carrying them out by talk about disaffected districts or special pleas for the defense of every menaced frontier or exposed town. Experts who are carefully studying the military problem expect him to send at least ten thousand men to Durban as soon as the earliest battalions of the army corps arrive at the Cape. Probably Lord Methuen's division will be detached for this purpose, and possibly will not land in Cape Town. In this way it is expected to have 10,000 fresh troops in Natal by Nov. 15, and in readiness to protect Pietermaritzburg and to push on to the relief of White.

RELIEF OF KIMBERLEY.

The bulk of Buller's force, when as-

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Black and Navy Serge, 44-inch All-Wool English Coating Twills, also Estamine finish, dyes warranted fast, very special value, at per yard.....50c

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sistance to White's has been provided, will probably be concentrated at De Aar Junction for operations for the relief of Kimberley and the direct movement upon Bloemfontein. This part of the plan has been clearly indicated by the accumulation of military stores at De Aar, which is a most important strategic point south of the Orange River and has railway connections with that town. Port Elizabeth and East London. The Dutch allies are evidently anticipating both features of Gen. Buller's probable plan, for they are threatening Pietermaritzburg from the Zulu border, and have also crossed the Orange River at two points, Colesburg and Bethulie. The former movement may be an empty menace, and the Orange River raids may be designed to block any advance upon Bloemfontein from either Port Elizabeth or East London. The raiders at Colesburg, however, are dangerously near the railway leading from De Aar Junction to Port Elizabeth, which is a nearer source of supplies than Cape Town for a large army.

CUT OFF. Mafeking, Kimberley and Ladysmith are now cut off from Gen. Buller's headquarters, and dependent upon native runners or pigeon post for carrying messages to the outer world. The latest tidings from Mafeking and Kimberley were meager but reassuring. The best military experts agree that Gen. White cannot have less than 12,000 or 15,000 men available for the defense of Ladysmith.

THE BOER JINGOES.

Conyngham Greene, who was the British agent at Pretoria, arrived in England Friday from the Cape. He said his personal relations with President Kruger were entirely satisfactory to the last moment of his stay in the Transvaal, but his manner implied that as much could not be said with reference to State Secretary Reitz and State Attorney Smuts. A prominent Uitlander, fresh from Johannesburg, who traveled by the same ship, remarked that President Kruger had seemed honestly distressed and dismayed over the prospect of war, and that he was coupled with Hoffmeyer, but that Reitz and Smuts, co-operating with President Steyn and certain Dutch-Afrikaner leaders in Cape Colony, had been mainly responsible for the catastrophe which has overwhelmed South Africa.

ATTITUDE OF THE POWERS.

Sir Charles Dilke contributes to the Review of the Week his views on the possibility of an European coalition against Great Britain as follows: There is no doubt that we are more generally disliked than at any time before. The United States is more friendly than at any previous time, but our unpopularity in France, Germany, Russia, Spain and Holland, taken together, was never so great. Austro-Hungarian opinion is, on the whole, against our cause in the present war, and the Italian public is less friendly since 1883. The elements of coalition against us seem at first sight to exist almost as plainly as they did when the coalition against us was formed, which brought us into the greatest straits at the time of the American revolutionary war. The government's preparation for a fleet is evidently justified, and the concentration of the Italian fleet has not necessarily followed. I am, however, convinced that there is no serious risk of a coalition against us on this occasion, and not much probability of serious attempts to raise questions disagreeable to us at a mo-

ment especially chosen on account of our absorption in South African affairs.

The policy of Italy is not hostile, in spite of the disagreeable manifestations of a part of the Italian press, and the Italian Government would hold the Italian people in support of their interest, which is to side with the first naval power.

The Emperor of Austria is a firm upholder of peace, and he has not only great international prestige, but in all recent public information a reality of power.

The Emperor of Russia is peacefully inclined; the Emperor of Germany and his advisers have as complete belief in the present power of the British fleet as Mr. Goschen, first lord of the admiralty, or Lord Spencer.

France, though uneasy, is not anxious to enter war. Holland is probably peaceful. Spain alone appears to me at the moment to be in Europe a disturbing cause, and there can be no doubt that last year she took steps in the neighborhood of Gibraltar, which recent public information as to our own preparations at that spot leads me to think that they have recently been renewed. Her present misfortune, like her naturally incline to stir things up, but even if she desired to provoke a coalition against us, she will, I feel, be convinced at present that she will find no backers.

THE FEELING IN FRANCE.

The Paris correspondent of the Tribune says popular sympathy for the Boers is taking practical shape under the direction of numerous committees, foremost among which is the Societies des Dames Francaise, in the Rue Mical, and the Dutch committee at No. 21 Rue de Artols, whose efforts are confined to legitimate aid to the wounded and the accumulation of funds for the widows and orphans. Subscriptions for these in two days amounted to more than 100,000 francs. Besides these are belligerent societies of the Junesse de Francaise de Transvaal, with headquarters at the cafe Procope, and other French societies. Recruiting offices under Col. Montell have been clandestinely opened, and in process of formation. Uniforms and equipments are to be supplied gratuitously by Parisian clothing establishments.

Dr. Leyds, the European agent of the Transvaal Government, now in Paris, authorizes the announcement that in the event of the Boers being victorious, they will immediately order the disarmament of all their troops. The present taxes on mines, which are imposed for the purpose of providing funds for the defense of the republic, will be abolished. President Kruger has already assured the powers on this account.

THE DUTCH.

The enthusiasm at The Hague over the reported successes of the Boers is extreme. The news, hour by hour, is eagerly watched for, and the speeches of deputies in the states general are constantly interrupted as rumors or dispatches come in. All the Dutch newspaper offices are flying the Transvaal flag.

IN GERMANY.

The news of the British reverses and losses in South Africa has been received in Germany with less demonstrations of joy than might have been expected from previous expressions. The mistakes and short-comings of the British preparations are pointed out with much vigor by the press strategists and military writers, but the

other newspapers comment on the week's events fairly.

AMERICAN FRIENDLINESS.

The British government recently contracted in Canada for large quantities of baled hay for use in the South African campaign. The shipments were to be made from an American port, it being transported through the United States in bond. The United States treasury regulations under which this was done prescribe that the goods should be exported in the original



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