POOR DOCUMENT

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Despatches Recently Given Out--Tried to Throw the Responsibility on Lord Roberts Where He Was to Blame--Mr. Wyndham's Defence.

London, May 4—The government leader in the House of Commons, Mr. A. J. Balfour, replying to questions regarding the treatment of British prisoners at Pretoria, said Her Majesty's government was considering the advisability of further representations on the subject through Washington and through the United States consul at Pretoria, Mr. Adelbert S. Hay, who has charge of British interests in the Transvaal.

Later the House went into committee of supply on the war office vote. Mr. Walter Runciman, Liberal, representing Oldham, started the debate on the publication of the Spion Kop despatches. He declared the government had disregarded every consideration except publicity and asserted that the responsibility for the publication rested entirely with politicians, although in this case the secretary for war had deliberately attempted to throw the responsibility on the commander-in-chief.

The public, he asserted, had expected the recall of the censured commanders, as in the case of General Gatacre, instead of which General Warren had been sent to administer a large territory while General Buller retained his command.

Mr. Wyndham, in reply, quoted the Duke of Wellington as precedent for the publication of the despatches. In so doing he said he resented the grave insinuation that the secretary of state for war was guilty of anything dishonorable in requesting General Buller to rewrite his despatch. He added that the Marquis of Lansdowne (the war secretary) was above the suspicion of being guilty of such conduct.

Continuing, Mr. Wyndham said he was prepared to discuss the question of the judgment and the discretion, but not of the honor of rectitude of the Marquis of Lansdowne.

Many misconceptions in regard to the despatches had already evaporated, including the belief that Lord Roberts and General Buller had criticised General Methuen's operations and that the criticisms had been suppressed, as supposed, by favoritism. The only point at issue was why the criticisms of General Buller had been published, if the government intended to leave him in command. Mr. Wyndham contended it was impossible to isolate the Spion Kop despatches and treat them as no other despatches had been treated in the history of the last hundred years. The war office, he asserted, had acted entirely in accordance with the Queen's regulations. It was said that the publication would shake the confidence of the troops in Natal in their commanders, but Mr. Wyndham said that was not the view of the government nor the view of General Buller, who was in the best position to decide.

Mr. John Dillon, Irish Nationalist, interrupted, saying he had never asserted that he wanted the despatches published.

Mr. Wyndham continued:

"But, the gallant general has been applauded for saying he would stick to what he had written and would he have made a great show of candor if he thought no one would know what he had written?"

This remark was greeted with cries of "oh! oh!"

Mr. Wyndham then said he thought General Buller had merely been unlucky and that General Warren's services should not be overlooked, adding that, while in publishing the despatches the government had acted on its own responsibility, it had been confirmed in so doing by the opinion of Lord Roberts.

The case for the government was that the right course was to publish what it had published and no more. He was persuaded that both General Buller and Lord Roberts had sent the despatches home for publication. Did the House suppose harm was done to a commander by a despatch showing his scheme was a good one and ought to have succeeded, or by deciding five points in his favor while one point was criticised? Was it fair to leave 40,000 or 50,000 men in doubt regarding what obscure causes had made all their heroism unavailing? Because General Warren failed in a large, independent command, did that prove that he was unfitted for other work?

With regard to General Buller, to attempt to apologize for him would be a great insult to a great man, who had deserved well of his country and his troops would be glad to know his strategy was praised by Lord Roberts.

Mr. H. H. Asquith, Liberal, and others, trenchantly animadverted on the alleged untenable position of the government, confidence in which, they asserted, had been so greviously shaken.

Mr. John Gordon Swift MacNeill, Irish Nationalist, declared the only reason for withholding criticism of Lord Methuen was because he had been ordered to save Mr. Cecil Rhodes at all costs.

Mr. Henry Labouchere, advanced Liberal, declared the government was charged with deliberately undertaking to "cook despatches for presentation to the British public," adding:

"All honor to Buller, who refused to be a party to deceiving the public."

Mr. Balfour said Mr. Labouchere had made it a question of the honor or dishonor of a great public servant. He added that his speech was the culmination of a series of attacks of persons who had discovered the meanest and basest motives in the government's action. The government, he continued, were accused of favoring one general at the expense of another. It was said they meant to prepare the public for the dismissal of General Buller. Such attacks were not worthy of the opponents of the government, which, by publishing the despatches, simply followed precedent. Was the government to understand as a result of today's criticisms that no further despatches were to be published?

He repudiated most earnestly the accusations hurled at the secretary of state for war and said he thought it shocking that such accusations should be made in the House of Commons.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Liberal leader in the House, said all Mr. Balfour could do was to appeal to mere party fidelity. The government, he asserted, had no precedent for its action. He also claimed that its defence was utterly insufficient and that the opposition would now record its vote in condemnation of the conduct of the government.

The vote on Mr. Runciman's motion to reduce the war office vote of £200 was rejected by a vote of 215 to 116.. The vote, which, of course, was merely a test motion made to obtain the sentiment of the House on the subject matter of discussion.

London May 4—In the House of Lords today, the Earl of Portsmouth (Liberal Unionist) called attention to the publication of the Spion Kop despatches which, he said, had aroused a depth and strength of feeling difficult to exaggerate.

The secretary of state for war, the Marquise of Lansdowne, in defending the publication of the despatches, said it was the only course open to the government.

Regarding Spion Kop, the secretary claimed the government might have published nothing, but the battle cost 1,600 casualties and if the papers had been withheld the reputations of the generals would have been damaged more than by their publication.

The secretary of state for war did not desire to divest himself of any responsibility, but if he had published the despatches without consulting Lord Roberts, he would have been guilty of great discourtesy and disloyalty to him. Lord Roberts showed conclusively that he had not withdrawn his confidence in General Buller by leaving the latter at the head of the army entrusted with the most difficult operations which were successfully carried out.

Lord Kimberley, the Liberal leader, declared the publication unjustified and Lord Rosebery asked if it were true that as a consequence of the publication General Buller had tendered his resignation which was refused.

Lord Lansdowne replied that the war office had no knowledge of such a step.

Lord Rosebery declared General Buller had been placed in a cruel position, pointing out that after the delirious joy of the public at the relief of Ladysmith the war office had set to work to publish everything damaging, critical and censorious upon General Buller in order to satisfy public curiosity of which no outward signs existed, and they were now compelled to wash their dirty linen in public. The government, he further asserted, had impaired General Buller's authority and had degraded his position.

After a brief reply from the Duke of Devonshire the subject was dropped.

The Canadians in a Rear-guard Skirmish.

Toronto, May 4—(Special)—The Globe today publishes the following special cable from its correspondent with the first contingent:

"Bloemfontein—The Canadians participated in the capture of Thaba N'chu Wednesday last. Private J. Defoe of Halifax Company, killed. Lieut. Colonel Otter slightly wounded. Pte. R. Burns, Ottawa Company, and Private Culver of New Brunswick Company, also wounded. On Monday the Canadians advanced from Springfield, and on Tuesday crossed Modder River in face of enemy's fire, helping to recover the water works. They rushed and occupied a kopje commanding the water works. On Wednesday they advanced to Thaba N'chu, coming into action early in the afternoon and fighting until dark. They captured several kopjes. The action was really a smart rear-guard skirmish, and the Canadians fought in a most workmanlike manner, the Boers evidently retiring.

"Col. Otter's wound was caused by a Mauser bullet, which injured his shoulder and chin slightly. He returned to Bloemfontein on Monday last, but hopes to rejoin the regiment shortly.

(Signed) "FREDERICK HAMILTON."

Willing to Submit All Claims to Arbitration.

London, May 5—The Daily Express publishes an interview with Mr. Abraham Fischer, of the Boer peace commission, given one of its representatives at Boulogne-Sur-Mer before the Maasdam sailed for the United States. Mr. Fischer said:

"We will gladly consent to submit all questions of guarantees and indemnity to the decision of any impartial tribunal. Grant us that and we would lay down our arms tomorrow."

Girl Strikers Organize.

Winslow, Me., May 4—Although half of the striking cutter girls at Hollingsworth & Whitney's paper mill have gone back to work, it is now understood that the remainder have organized into a union and secured promises from the girls from Gardiner that they will return home tonight. The strikers also claim that the machine men are in sympathy with them.

Sandon Wiped Out.

Victoria, B. C., May 4—The chief portion of the mining town of Sandon, east Kootenay, was destroyed by fire today. The railroad station and telegraph office were burned. No particulars have been received.

Fire in New Glasgow.

New Glasgow, May 4.—Fire broke out in I. Matheson & Co.'s moulding store about 10.30 last night. There was a tremendous gale of wind blowing and at one time matters looked serious. The fire brigade were, however, promptly at work and extinguished the flames before much damage had been done. The building was of brick with a wooden roof. The damage was about $200.

Amendments Warmly Discussed--A Clause Suggested Which Would Keep Sapho and Everything Else Out of Canada--The Preservation of Morals.

Ottawa, May 4—In the House today, a number of returns were laid on the table. Dr. Borden read two cablegrams from South Africa announcing the death of three members of the Canadian contingent. Sir Wilfrid Laurier moved the third reading of the act to provide for the conditional liberation of penitentiary convicts. He explained the manner in which tickets of leave were granted by the department of justice. It was on recommendation of the warden of the prison or of the judge who tried the case. The bill to make furprovision respecting grants of land to members of the militia force on active service in the Northwest was read a second time and passed in committee.

The bill to amend the weights and measures act was read a second time.

A bill for the inspection of foreign grain at Montreal was read the second time.

Hon. Mr. Blair moved the second reading of the bill to amend the railway act. This bill has already been explained. The first clause withdraws certain lines of tramway and street railways from legislative control of the dominion parliament and leaves them for the provinces to deal with. The next clause of the bill was to prevent companies that had received dominion subsidies from sidetracking some town sites and exploiting other town sites of their own. The railway committee of the privy council will have power to change the location of railway stations so that existing towns might not suffer. Another clause provides for one set of regulations for running trains which all companies can take advantage of.

Mr. Haggart asked that Hon. Mr. Blair's bill to amend the railway act be referred to the railway committee where it could be discussed with greater freedom.

Lieut.-Col. Tisdale said that the bill was drastic in its provisions. He strongly objected to the railway committee having the power to order to change stations as was provided by the bill. The railway companies, too, should have an opportunity to pass on the merits of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Blair was of the opinion that the bill was not such a one as required to be discussed by the railway committee. Last year the bill was before the committee and it did not receive very proper treatment by that body. A system of obstruction was raised against it, and this was one of the reasons why he did not pursue the course he did last year. Finally he moved that the bill go to the committee, but in doing so he hoped that it would get fair treatment.

The House went into committee on the bill to further amend the criminal code. This bill came from the Senate. Last year it was passed by that body and dropped in the House of Commons. It contains a number of stringent provisions for the better preservation of morals. Quite a discussion arose over the section which it was proposed to substitute for 179 of the criminal code making any one guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years imprisonment who publicly exhibits any disgusting object or indecent show.

Mr. Davin strongly denounced indecent shows and did not think the bill went far enough. He moved an amendment that any person who "Places on stage a play or drama or melodrama, spectacular entertainment pandering to sensuality and licentiousness" should come under act. This he asked to be added to clause regarding indecent shows.

Mr. Flint was of the opinion that the House should go slow.

Col. Tisdale thought the section of the bill went far enough and Mr. Britton held the same view. Solicitor General Fitzpatrick thought the phraseology of the section as it had stood since 1869, was sufficient to prevent indecent shows.

Mr. Quinn expressed great anxiety as to the demoralizing effect of indecent shows on the youth of the country. The section was passed.

The bill was discussed for some time and the committee afterwards reported progress.

The House adjourned at 11 o'clock.

A Six Inch Cannon Surprised the Boers at Seven and a Half Miles With Hundred Pound Shells.

Warrenton, Cape Colony, May 4—A British six-inch wire gun opened unexpectedly on the Boer laager yesterday at a distance of seven and a half miles, throwing 100 pound shells with wonderful accuracy and causing a hasty retreat of the burghers. The bombardment continued today at all points by Howitzers and field guns, supported by two companies of the Munster Regiment, the Boers being driven from shelter and their guns being put out of action.

Official Report by General French on the Disaster of January 5.

London, May 4—The Gazette this evening contains General French's report of the disaster to the Suffolk regiment in the Colesburg district, January 5, which he attributes entirely to the fact that a majority of the four companies of the regiment engaged were seized with panic and retired. He pays high tribute to the officers of the regiment and the men who remained with them.

Brig Ashore.

Atlantic City, N. J., May 4—An unknown brig is ashore off Little Eggs Harbor. It is probably the British brig Aldine, from Philadelphia for Yarmouth.

The Montpelier a Wreck on Newfoundland.

Quebec, May 4—The wrecking steamer Lord Stanley has been ordered to the assistance of the steamship Montpelier, ashore at Duck Island, three miles west of the channel, Newfoundland.

The Montpelier struck at 9 o'clock last night and beat out her bow and bottom on the rocks. She is breaking to pieces. Her crew landed today from the steamer's boats, in which they spent the night lying off the coast waiting for daylight.

Cape Henry, Va., May 4—The weather bureau official at Hatteras, N. C., reports that the steamer ashore on Diamond Shoals is the British steamer Virginia, Captain Charles Samuels, from Daiquiri, Cuba, for Baltimore, with a cargo of iron ore. The steamer carried a crew of 26 men, including one stowaway. The steamer stranded about 6 p. m. Wednesday, May 2, during thick, heavy weather. The entire crew took to the boats and attempted to leave the ship. One boat with 15 of the crew got away, but the other boat was swamped and six men were drowned. The remaining five got back to the steamer where they remained till this morning when they were rescued and brought ashore by the crews of the life saving stations. The ship stranded on the outer Diamond, about 12 miles from the shore, and owing to the thick, squally weather which has prevailed for several days she was not discovered by the life savers until this morning. Much difficulty was encountered in getting to the ship on account of the heavy sea and high wind, the boats starting this morning early and not being able to return until about 4 o'clock this afternoon. The ship is now nearly all under water and is a total loss. The saved are: Captain Charles Samuels, First Officer Wynes, Second Engineer Simmons, Third Engineer Geo. Mitchell, Seaman Hartin Rasmussen. The following are known to be drowned: Samuel Park, steward; P. St. George Walley, chief engineer; Harris, seaman; Olsen, seaman, and two firemen, names unknown.

The boat with 15 of the crew which got away from the ship when last seen was running off shore before the wind and was apparently safe. Those in the boat are: Moore, second officer; Grant, donkey man; Turner, cook; Thompson, carpenter; Donald, mess boy; Christiansen, Jeffen, Purfell, Blanche, seamen; stowaway, second steward and four firemen, names unknown.

The captain and four men will leave for Norfolk at the first opportunity.

St. John's, Nfld., May 4—The steamers Virginia and Grand Lake have been ordered to the Montpelier wreck though there is little prospect of refloating her. The captain of the Montpelier officially abandoned the steamer, believing salvage impossible.

The Trouble on the New York Roads About Ended.

Buffalo, N. Y., May 4—The return of the striking car repairers of the New York Central to work this morning, an agreement reached by which the men of the Nickel Plate receive the scale agreed to by the New York Central and their promise to resume work in the morning; an absolute failure of agreement between the men of the Erie and the division superintendent; a partial failure between the men of the Lackawanna and the master mechanic and a delay pending the ultimatum of higher officials in the matter of the demand made by the men of the Western New York and Penna. and the Lehigh Valley summarizes the developments of today in the strike of the Car Repairers Association.

There were some efforts made to progress the series of conferences suggested between committees of the striking railway freight handlers and the division superintendents of the lines where the men are out, but without furition.

The resumption of work by the New York Central men this morning was without incident.

This afternoon five conferences were in session between committees representing the striking car repairers of the other lines and their respective employers. The men of the Western New York and Penna. were told that President DeCourcey's reply had not been received.

Division Superintendent Van Allen, of the Lehigh Valley, heard the demand of the men for pay at the scale conceded by the New York Central. He was not in position to accept or reject without advice from general officers.

Master Mechanic McKenzie came to terms with the reparrers of the Nickel Plate and it is reported substantially granted the New York Central scale.

The conference between the Lackawanna men and Master Mechanic Canfield was lengthy and while not conclusive, negotiations are still on.

Division Superintendent Brunn told the striking Erie men that his company would not depart from the system of paying by piece work, which obtained on the entire line. The men insisted on the adoption of the new Central scale. When the conference was concluded it looked as though negotiations between the Erie Railroad and its striking car repairers had been broken off for the time being at least.

Both Sides Have Strong Positions on Hills.

Brabant's Camp, Tuesday, May 1—(By runner to Mafeking)—Brabant's division now occupies a strong position on a range of hills on the Ladybrand road, about 20 miles from Wepener. The troops are confronted by a large force of Boers who recently occupied Wepener and who have now been located in the mountain known in the Free State as Zwartlepberg. This morning the Borderer's Horse, under Col. Maxwell, came in contact with the Boer outposts, but returned to camp after locating the enemy. Later a group of 500 Boers was discovered marching past the Boer position, but the British were unable to tell whether they were friends or enemies until they had disappeared in a hollow a few miles away when they proved to be a Boer commando.

The Austrian Emperor and His German Cousin Are Having a First Rate Time In the Latter's Capital---The Birthday of the German Crown Prince.

Berlin, May 4—Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, who left Vienna yesterday evening for Berlin in order to be present at the ceremonies and celebrations in connection with the coming of age of the German crown prince (Frederick William) has appointed Emperor William field marshal general of the Austrian army.

The two emperors had an extremely busy day of it. After his fatiguing, all-night journey from Vienna, and after the excitement of this morning's reception, Emperor Francis Joseph did not have a moment's rest until nearly midnight.

After the military review and having saluted the German Empress and conversed with her for a short time, the Austro-Hungarian monarch, at 1.30 p. m. joined the family luncheon with Emperor William and the Empress at the Castle. All the sons of the Kaiser saluted Emperor Francis Joseph by kissing his hand. Both emperors looked remarkably vigorous and in fine spirits. Early in the afternoon Emperor Francis Joseph tarried a while in the palace of Emperor William, where he prayed silently and later visited the Mausoleum. Later, on his return to the castle he engaged the Crown Prince in conversation, after which he congratulated the Kaiser upon the possession of such a fine son.

The Berlin press tonight prints articles of sympathetic welcome. This evening, the so-called "Zapfenstreigh" was performed between 8 and 10 o'clock in the large park-like space in front of the castle by all the bands, drummers and trumpeters of the entire guard corps. This produced a wierdly marvellous effect with the brilliant illuminations all around. The two emperors listened to the performance from the illuminated central balcony of the castle. The imperial princes and the princely guests listened from the other balconies. The volume of sound produced by about 600 instruments was enormous, but such is the perfection of their drill that harmony was obtained.

During the evening the city was partially illuminated, although this was not according to official programme which accounts for the fact that none of the state or public buildings, except those in the immediate vicinity of the castle, was illuminated. However, Unter Den Linden was a gorgeous sight. Of the embassies only the Russian, French and American were illuminated, doubtless because they are on Unter Den Linden.

It was noticed that the initials of the two emperors, intertwined in electric lights, were to be seen at many points along Unter Den Linden.

The main attraction was around the castle, the principal features being the new Cathedral and the National monument—that to Emperor William I. The latter was especially fine, over 10,000 tiny incandescent lamps marking its outlines and setting off the heroic beauties of this gigantic testimonial of the affection and reverence in which the Emperor was held by the German people. Six searchlights played upon it, greatly heightening the effect.

The Lokal Anzeiger says, on alleged authority, the Emperor Francis Joseph intends to give his august ally an "Extraordinary proof of his affection and esteem" before leaving Berlin.

Changes Have Been Made in the Bisley Team.

Ottawa, May 4.—Ottawa will have representatives on the Bisley team this year. Corp. W. J. Annand, of the 73rd Battalion, was notified yesterday that he had been given a place on the team and that the Elder-Dempster steamship would leave on the 22nd inst.

Pte. Tink, of the Governor General's Foot Guards, is the other Ottawa man. The four waiting men were Corrigan, 59th Battalion; Crooks, Q. O. R.; Morris, 59th; Annand, of 43rd; and the four men who dropped out were Lieut. Bent, Capt. Cartwright, Gunner Sleeman and Lieut. Bertram. This places all four waiting men in. C. T. Burns, Halifax, is now next in waiting.

Havelock McC. Hart, of Halifax, manufacturer; Robt. E. Harris, barrister-at-law; Edwin Dickie, of Upper Stewiacke, merchant; Edwin H. Allison, Halifax, barrister-at-law; Nathan Howard Stevens, manufacturer; Henry Joseph Stevens, miller; Ida Jane Stevens, wife of Nathan Howard Stevens; John A. Walker, barrister-at-law, all of Chatham, Kent, Ontario, and James Rutherford, of Blenheim, Kent, are applying for incorporation as the Canadian Flour Mills Company. The capital stock is placed at $550,000 and the place of business is Halifax.

The appointment of James Craig, of Renfrew, as judge in the Yukon is gazetted.

A large convention of Liberals of Lisgar, Manitoba, last night at Morden, representing every polling division and numbering 150 delegates, after an address by Mr. Greenway, adopted a resolution repudiating the sentiments of Mr. Richardson, member of that constituency, and resolved to nominate a candidate to oppose him at the general election.

Mr. Greenway denounced Mr. Richardson for unjustly attacking him and for wilful misrepresentation.

A vote of confidence in Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Greenway was passed.

Hon. David Mills was in his place in the Senate today for the first time since his illness and received the congratulations of the senators before the speaker entered.

Col. Denison in Conference.

London, May 5—Col. Denison, former president of the Canadian Society, visited the House of Commons last evening where he had a long conversation with Lord Geo. Hamilton, secretary of state for India, and with several other members of the House.

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This caution is necessary, as many persons receive purchasers by false representations.

DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE —Vice Chancellor Sir W. PAGE WOOD stated publicly in Court that Dr. J. COLLIS BROWNE was undoubtedly the INVENTOR of CHLORODYNE, that the whole story of the defendant Freeman was deliberately untrue, and he regretted to say it had been sworn to.—*See The Times*, July 13, 1864.

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