

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH
Is a paper of news and general information, published weekly, except on Sundays and public holidays, by the TELEGRAPH PUBLISHING COMPANY, of St. John, N. S., a company incorporated by act of the legislature of New Brunswick. THOMAS GREENWAY, President; JAMES HANNA, Editor.

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of the provinces in a purely local sense, they can find satisfactory compensation in the fact that one of the most dangerous issues ever raised in Canada has been once and for all removed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The control of a minor province is a cheap price to pay for such a splendid result.

THE ELEVATOR QUESTION.

The discussion which is now going on with more or less animation over the question of elevator facilities at Montreal is not without a considerable measure of interest to the people of the maritime provinces. Large volumes of grain come from the west to St. John and Halifax without adequate storage accommodation being provided at Montreal or some other point accessible to the International. The minister of railways has made that clear in his speeches both here and in parliament. The means of handling the grain on the west side of the harbor here are all but completed, and quite apart from what is proposed to be done at Montreal, a considerable winter business is now possible over the government railway system. But to realize the full aspirations of the minister it is essential that large storage depots should be available at a railway centre like Montreal. So that the provisions made by the government at St. John and Halifax have in some respects been in advance of the time when they could be fully utilized. No one will, however, take exception to what has been done on the ground that delay would have been preferable. It is better we should get what we can now, and be ready for the larger traffic when it comes.

Some notion of the possibilities of the grain-carrying trade may be gathered from the nature of the bargain which has been proposed by the Consors syndicate of Buffalo to the corporation of Montreal. In consideration of certain concessions along the harbor front, the syndicate undertakes to bring not less than 35,000,000 of grain annually to Montreal. Most of it, if the arrangement goes into effect, will be shipped from that port during the season of navigation; but the point in which we are interested down here is the diversion which will be brought about from America to Canadian channels. Hitherto all this water-borne grain has gone to Buffalo. Once, however, it gets moving in the direction of Montreal there is a reasonable certainty that millions of bushels will be made available for shipment by our maritime ports during the winter. The full grain crop of the west would not, even if it could, find its way to the seaboard during the season of summer navigation.

What has made this important diversion of grain to Canadian channels possible? The answer is obvious. Had the deepening of the St. Lawrence canal system been carried on in the dawdling fashion adopted by the Conservatives, the means of bringing many millions of bushels of grain to Montreal would not have been available for probably ten years to come, and by that time our best opportunities in respect of this trade would have disappeared. Buffalo and New York have been surprised by the prompt completion of the canal by the present administration, and are not prepared to offset the bid which Canada is making for a large share of the grain trade coming down the great lakes. The extension of the International to Montreal links the maritime provinces to the chain of channels between the western wheat fields and the sea, and gives us a vital interest in the business.

A WONDERFUL MESMERIST.

Various opinions have been offered by the Conservative press in relation to the recent election in Manitoba, some of them claiming it as due to the great popularity of Mr. Macdonald, while others lean to the view that it indicates the growing strength of Tory principles—whatever they may be. Mr. Foster, with an eye to personal interest, saw in the event the direct result of his own campaign in the Prairie Province, and with accustomed modesty he promptly heeded the announcement over the country in a carefully prepared interview for telegraphic purposes. But the Montreal Star, having given due deliberation to the matter, comes forward with an authoritative utterance, speaking as the organ of Conservative opinion in Canada, and Mr. Foster is not in it. Sir Charles Tupper, and he alone, is responsible for the change. He did it with his little speeches. The Star makes that quite clear, and does not allow such an important deliverance to be impaired or modified by admitting a single other factor into the equation. One side there stands Sir Charles, the result, victory. It sums up the calculations in these words:—

"Sir Charles Tupper spoke first in Winnipeg. His utterances were published in full and were circulated and read all over the province. Besides, Sir Charles spoke in eleven constituencies. Of these the Conservatives carried eight, and in the three remaining the Liberal majorities were reduced."

These are really marvellous results, and the Conservatives of New Brunswick will now be consumed with remorse because they did not arrange to have Sir Charles do the talking for them in February last instead of trusting the job to Mr. Foster. Had the Conservative leader been here, they will probably feel that Mr. Hagan might even now be building some of

those remarkable cheap bridges which he promised to the province. But alas! for the lack of such a great convincer in her hour of doubt New Brunswick must continue to struggle a while longer under the tyranny of the Emmersons and Blairs.

The most amazing part of this whole matter, however, is the fact that this gift of swaying whole provinces has come to Sir Charles like a case of second sight, or second childhood, or some of those other curious things that happen very late in life. He didn't show even a symptom of it in 1896, and he was then upwards of 75 years of age. He talked in quite a number of constituencies without being able to bring about the wholesale conversions that seem to have followed upon "his twelve powerful speeches" in Manitoba. Indeed, the influence in most cases seemed to work quite the other way. For example, he went early in the campaign to Halifax, that staid old Tory stronghold where the word of the Tupper was of much account, and the Liberals won a seat. Thence he passed westward to Cumberland, which had been consistently Conservative since long before confederation, and once again this strange power that manifested itself so mightily in Manitoba worked in the negative direction. Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, Hamilton, East Lambton, North and South Essex, West Middlesex and one or two other Tory ridings listened in turn to Sir Charles and elected Liberals. The magic didn't work.

It will be nice question for metaphysicians to solve, as to why Sir Charles could be such a melancholy failure in 1896, and bob up as a shining success three years later. There is no doubt of it being the same Sir Charles, and no one could possibly say which were not the same speeches. Barring a judicious silence on the school question, there was scarcely a syllable of difference between what he said in the dominion campaign and what produced such electric results a couple of weeks ago. Sir Charles is not the kind of man to say one thing today and another thing tomorrow. He believes in consistency, even to the extent of making the same speeches year after year. There is no reason to suppose, therefore, how large a force is in South Africa. Our estimate of the number of British soldiers now in South Africa is 55,000, including the Ladysmith garrison, and of this number probably 30,000 are in Natal. All the men of the fourth division have reached their destination, and the fifth division is now on the sea between England and the Cape. When the British soldiers now at sea arrive the general in command will have about 15,000 more men, and the sixth division now ready to sail will give him upwards of 10,000 additional, bringing up the total to 80,000. Our readers will be glad to have the details of this force. Between the 24th November and the 9th December the following infantry battalions left England for Cape of Good Hope:—

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

South Africa seems likely to be the grave of many great military reputations. Men who have won fame in battle in other parts of the world have had their laurels tarnished since the beginning of this war and have in some cases suffered a total eclipse of reputation. First it was General White who left beneath the public censure for his loss of a large part of two British infantry battalions. Then came the disaster to Gatacre, which was almost as bad as the Farquar's Farm surrender. Closely following it was the repulse experienced by General Methuen near Modder River, and now comes the news that General Buller has lost eleven guns in an attempt to cross the Tugela river. This last misfortune came the climax and the British people, who have been accustomed to victory and to whom the loss of guns is a novelty, will not be likely to bear with patience so serious a defeat. We know that the manhood has not gone out of the British people or the British army for the soldiers never fought better than they have done in this war. No man can find any fault with the manner in which the British private soldier has comported himself in this struggle, and the non-commissioned officers and officers in command of companies and battalions have been equally brave and zealous. The fault, if there is a fault, has been with the generals. Perhaps the Tugela disaster has been the result of unavoidable misfortune, but the public are apt to think that in military matters merit and success should go hand in hand. If a general meets with disasters they regard it as a proof that the management of the campaign has been bad. In the present war it does not appear that there has been any display of ability on the part of the commanders such as we have a right to expect from men who are entrusted with the leadership of men. White, Gatacre, Methuen and Buller have all proved themselves to be gallant soldiers, but as generals they have so far failed. White undoubtedly has done the best of any, notwithstanding the Farquar's Farm surrender, for he was out numbered from the start. Buller apparently has done the worst for he has plenty of men, and he took his own time before advancing. He has been repulsed and driven back and has lost more guns in one day than all the other generals have fought the battles of Great Britain, have in a century.

General Buller's official despatch explains, but does not excuse, the cause of his defeat. Why should the artillery have been rushed to the river which was full of Boers before an examination had been made of the position by the cavalry or mounted infantry? The most ordinary precautions would have given the commander of the artillery notice of the trap that had been set for him, and a few shells, judiciously placed, at the point where the Boers were concealed, would have destroyed them. The whole British nation as well as the British army feels disgraced by his defeat and its consequences.

The British government, however, does not intend to let the success of the campaign in South Africa depend on these six divisions which are in Africa on their way there. A seventh division, which has been mobilized, is to be sent out immediately and probably will be embarked by Christmas or earlier. In addition to the twelve battalions of militia are to be utilized, either for service in the colonies or at the seat of war, an arrangement which will enable an equivalent number of regulars to go to the front. Additional militia battalions are to be embodied for service in the United Kingdom. A strong force of volunteers selected from the Yeomanry cavalry regiments will be formed for service in South Africa, a strong contingent of carefully selected volunteers will also be employed

sequences, and the enemies of the empire, all over the world, will rejoice.

The disaster to General Buller has produced a great deal of unnecessary alarm among the writers for the English press and many of the views to which they are giving utterance are to the last degree absurd. The British empire will not fall to pieces even if General Buller should prove to be a blunderer and General Gatacre a disappointment. There are plenty of good men left in the British army, who are able to redeem the situation. It is easy for German critics to sneer at British generalship, and to abuse the British army but they have yet to show that they cannot conduct a campaign at a distance of 6,000 miles from Germany. The fields on which they have fought have been the battle fields of Europe for centuries and every feature of the ground is set out in detail in their military maps. The British are fighting in a country that is largely a wilderness, in which supplies have to be carried long distances, and in which the question of obtaining sufficient water for the needs of the army has always to be kept in view. A great many men are required to keep open the lines of communication, while the Boers apparently move about freely untrammelled by any such considerations, living on the country which they plunder and ravage as they occupy it. At the same time there seems to have been on the British side a decided deficiency of that kind of strategic ability which is necessary in facing new conditions and difficulties. The only general who has so far won distinction in this war is White, who, except in one instance, has conducted his campaign in a manner which no fault can be found. Certainly his defence of Ladysmith has been in the highest degree creditable to his military skill, for the place is scarcely capable of being defended. As for General Buller the expectations based on his movements were so high that the depression resulting from his failure is proportionately great.

A great many people are now asking how large a force is in South Africa. Our estimate of the number of British soldiers now in South Africa is 55,000, including the Ladysmith garrison, and of this number probably 30,000 are in Natal. All the men of the fourth division have reached their destination, and the fifth division is now on the sea between England and the Cape. When the British soldiers now at sea arrive the general in command will have about 15,000 more men, and the sixth division now ready to sail will give him upwards of 10,000 additional, bringing up the total to 80,000. Our readers will be glad to have the details of this force. Between the 24th November and the 9th December the following infantry battalions left England for Cape of Good Hope:—

2nd Lancashire Fusiliers.
2nd Royal Warwickshire.
1st Yorkshires.
2nd Dorsetshire.
2nd Middlesex.
1st South Lancashire.
2nd Royal Lancaster.
1st York and Lancaster.
The Derbyshire Regiment left Malta for Cape Town via Suez on Nov. 21st. On Dec. 2nd 800 men of the regiment now in South Africa left Bombay for Durban. About 2,000 men of regiments now in Africa left England for the Cape prior to Dec. 9th. Three battalions of Horse Artillery, T Q and U, left England for the Cape Dec. 8th. The 28th Field Artillery left England for the Cape Dec. 3rd. The Household Cavalry, 600 strong, left Nov. 30th, the 14th Hussars, 600 strong, Dec. 8th, and 140 of the 18th Hussars, Nov. 30th. These troops make up a force of more than 15,000 men, most of them now almost due at the Cape.

The men of the sixth division will be despatched prior to the 29th inst. Some of them have already left England. This division will be under the command of Lieut. General Sir C. Mansfield Clarke and will consist of the following battalions of infantry:—

2nd Bedford Regiment.
1st Royal Irish Regiment.
2nd Worcestershire Regiment.
2nd Wiltshire Regiment.
2nd East Kent Regiment.
2nd Gloucester Regiment.
1st West Riding Regiment.
1st Oxford Light Infantry.

A Brigade Division of the Field Artillery, composed of the 76th, 81st and 82nd Batteries, under the command of Lieut. Col. McDonnell. Cavalry will be supplied by the 14th Hussars, and the division will be completed with a company each of the A.S.C. and R.E. and a Field Hospital from the R.A.M.C. This will make a total of just under 10,000 men all told.

The British government, however, does not intend to let the success of the campaign in South Africa depend on these six divisions which are in Africa on their way there. A seventh division, which has been mobilized, is to be sent out immediately and probably will be embarked by Christmas or earlier. In addition to the twelve battalions of militia are to be utilized, either for service in the colonies or at the seat of war, an arrangement which will enable an equivalent number of regulars to go to the front. Additional militia battalions are to be embodied for service in the United Kingdom. A strong force of volunteers selected from the Yeomanry cavalry regiments will be formed for service in South Africa, a strong contingent of carefully selected volunteers will also be employed

and the offer of the colonies for additional contingents will be accepted, preference being given to mounted contingents. These additions to the force in South Africa will increase its strength to considerable more than one hundred thousand men, a number which ought to be able to insure the success of the British arms. The employment of a large force will, in the end, be found to be wise economy, for it will make it unnecessary for the British generals to attack positions where the Boers have been carefully fortifying themselves, and which in some cases have to be carried at the point of the bayonet. For instance if General Methuen instead of having only ten or twelve thousand men at Modder river had seven or eight thousand more, the men in front of the enemy as an army of observation and marched on with the remainder of his entrenchment and fight and the advantage would have been on the side of the British instead of being with the Boers, as it has been heretofore in every case. All the misfortunes which have so far happened to the British in South Africa have been due to a lack of sufficient force and this has compelled assaults on impregnable positions and attacks under conditions when it was almost hopeless to expect success.

General Buller has been displaced from the chief command in South Africa as a result of his failure at Tugela River and Lord Roberts, who is, by many, esteemed to be England's greatest soldier, is to succeed him. General Kitchener has been appointed chief of staff to Lord Roberts. These two appointments will be highly gratifying to the British people throughout the empire because they will inspire confidence in the management of the campaign which, unfortunately, is not now felt. As things stand the people are prepared to hear of almost any misfortune as the result of the bad management of the men in command; and the soldiers must have lost confidence in their leaders to so great an extent that they would seriously impair their morale. The appointment of Lord Roberts, therefore, is in every way highly desirable, for the men who march under his banner will know that they are under a leader who is accustomed to victory. The British people have had many illustrations of the shocking results of placing their soldiers under incompetent commanders. During the war of 1812 ten or twelve thousand soldiers of Wellington's victorious army, men who had never turned their backs on the enemy and who had fought five campaigns in the Spanish peninsula, were sent out to America and placed under the command of Sir George Prevost. This incapable general succeeded in leading these men into disaster and disgrace. Something like this seems to have happened in South Africa. General Buller's fall is a little broken by the statement that Lord Roberts has been placed in chief command because Buller's undivided attention is required for the Natal campaign; but it is quite possible that Buller may not be asked to remain in Natal much longer.

It is now certain that another Canadian contingent will go out to South Africa and the government has made every preparation for their despatch at an early day. It is said that some of the Canadian regular artillery will be sent by probably the greater part of the second contingent will consist of mounted men. A detachment of the Canadian Mounted Police would be more useful to the British generals in South Africa than almost any force that could be selected, and it is understood that there is hardly a man in that force who is not ready to volunteer. In one respect the disaster of General Buller has been a benefit, because it has proved to the mother country and to the world how strong is the attachment of the colonies to the empire, and how firm is their determination that the prestige of Great Britain shall not suffer as long as they have the power to uphold it.

The appointment of General Lord Roberts to the chief command in South Africa and of Lord Kitchener as chief of staff has given a great deal of satisfaction throughout the empire. Lord Roberts is undoubtedly a general of great ability, and many people think he is England's greatest general. His most brilliant campaign was that in Afghanistan in 1880, and it will stand comparison with anything that has been done by a British general in the east. Lord Kitchener's achievements are too recent to need any special mention. As an organizer of victory he has no superior in any army in the world, but there are many who think less favorably of his skill as a tactician. His last battle at Omdurman has been severely criticized, but most people will judge his ability by its results and tried by that standard no man can claim superiority to Kitchener. He carried out the programme he set himself to accomplish in the most business like fashion, and he captured Omdurman on the very day he had promised to take it and destroy the Khalifa's power. Such achievements entitle him to the confidence of his countrymen and that he enjoys to the fullest extent.

Lord Roberts will leave England with his staff on Saturday next in the Dunnoter Castle and should reach the Cape about the 9th of January. Lord Kitchener will leave Omdurman at once and will be at Cairo in about three days. He will probably embark at Suez on a steam-

ship going down the Red Sea, and should reach the Cape about the same time as Lord Roberts. Some people seem to think that the campaign will wait until these two generals reach South Africa, but there seems to be no good reason why this should be the case. There is a large British force in Africa and it is being daily added to as the transports carrying the fifth division arrive, so that there will be every inducement for the British generals now there to make a forward movement. Methuen and Buller have been repulsed but they are still at the head of strong forces, and while the loss of Buller's guns will incommode him there is no reason to doubt that they can be replaced. Unless Buller and Methuen have received repulsive orders not to advance until General Roberts arrives, and such orders are not likely to have been given, they will certainly attempt to do something to retrieve their reputations within the next few days. And if the reverses they have met with have taught them wisdom and caution their success in their next attempts may be as great as was their failure in the last one. The people of England and of the empire generally have been so much disappointed at the result of the military operations so far that they have lost faith in their leaders, but it does not follow that they will always fail or that the tricks of the Boers will always succeed. A little caution on the part of Buller would have turned the Tugela River battle into a Boer reverse, and opened the way to Ladysmith.

The British government has accepted the offer of another Canadian contingent, and the minister of militia is making arrangements for forwarding it to South Africa at the earliest possible moment. The British war office expresses a preference for mounted troops, and the arrangements made by the militia department will doubtless look towards the formation of corps of this character. There will be four or more companies of mounted infantry numbering 125 men each, and Batteries A and B, which number 250 men, will be recruited up to a strength of 300. A considerable proportion of the mounted infantry will probably be taken from the mounted police, but a chance will be given to other corps to send volunteers. We presume that the contingent will number at least 1,000 men, and possibly more for the number has not been limited by the British government. The Australians are sending 1,000 mounted men and a battery of artillery, and Canada is well able to send as many or more. There will be no lack of volunteers and the government will be disposed to give the patriotism of our people as free a scope as possible.

NERVES ALL SMASHED.

Indigestion and Dyspepsia are the Arch Destroyers, But South American Nerve Proves the Never-Failing Health Builder.
Mrs. Ellen Butler, 37 Colville street, Toronto, suffered from indigestion in a severe form for several years, was unable to eat meat or vegetables, was threatened with nervous prostration as a result of chronic dyspepsia. After many remedies had been tried and failed, she began using the South American Nerve. When she had taken three bottles, to use her own words, "I can at anything eat before me, and enjoy it without any bad after effects. I think it a wonderful remedy for dyspepsia and nervous prostration."
Sold by E. C. Brown.

NEW COMPANY.

To Operate in the Yukon—St. John Men Apply for Incorporation.

Application for the incorporation of an important new mining company will be made in this week's Royal Gazette which will be issued tomorrow. It will be known as the Bonanza (Klondike) Concession and Mining Company Limited. The capital is \$250,000 in shares of \$1 each. Mr. W. E. Skilken, of St. John, is the promoter of the company and the applicants for incorporation are: W. E. Skilken, St. John; J. B. Wetmore, St. John; George McAvity, L. Col. J. J. Tucker, Hon. A. T. Dunn, Thomas Dunning and A. George Blair, all of St. John. Mr. Blair is the company's solicitor.

Eleven claims on Bonanza Creek and six on Little Skookum Creek have been bought outright at a cost of \$25,000 and will be worked systematically. They are in the richest part of the Yukon district, that portion known as the Transalaska division. A steam mining plant to cost about \$10,000 will be sent out to the property, leaving Vancouver about May 1. This plant, it is probable, may be built in the Yukon. The work on the company's claims will be begun just as soon as this plant is on the ground, which is expected to be by June 15 next.

Mr. Morris Marks, an eminent mining engineer of Australia, has been in the city for several days in connection with this matter. He has just come from the Klondike territory, where he has spent two years. It is probable that he may be over-seer for the company in its operations. The head office of the new company will be at St. John. A limited number of the shares will be put on the market to provide working capital.

BLISTERED BY DOCTORS.

For Heat Disease Without Help—Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heat Relieves in Fifteen Minutes.

Mrs. O. Ward, of Magog, Que., was a great sufferer from heat disease. Physicians blistered her and gave her other treatments without relief. She read in the papers of the wonderful cures made by Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heat. She procured a bottle of it. Fifteen minutes after the first dose she had relief. Before taking this remedy she had constant spits of suffocation and fainting, and severe pains about the heart, and was so weak that the act of sweeping the floor caused her to faint. She continued using the remedy until she had taken six bottles, and today she is as well as ever she was.
Sold by E. C. Brown.