

Haldane on Army

THE Carpenters' Company gave a dinner in their hall to meet Mr. Haldane, K.C., M.P., and the members of the Army Council. The Master, Lieut.-Col. A. C. Preston presided, the seats on his immediate right and left being occupied by Mr. Haldane and Lord Portsmouth, says the London Times.

The loyal toasts having been honored, the Master proposed "The Imperial Forces."

General Sir J. French, in reply, remarked that it was customary on such occasions as those for soldiers sometimes to express their views on military policy generally, so long as such statements were limited by the wholesome and salutary laws of military discipline under which they serve. He was, however, unable that night to follow this precedent. Some time ago, as a soldier in uniform, he was talking to soldiers in uniform and practically on parade. In endeavoring to encourage and urge them to fulfill their duty to their Sovereign and country, he expressed an opinion that a voluntarily enlisted soldier, who was induced by his sense of patriotism and his love for his country to rally to the colors, was worth considerably more than one who was pressed into the service against his will. What was his astonishment a few days afterwards to read in a prominent place in large print in the columns of The Times a letter from an ex-Minister, who held high office under the late Government, grossly misrepresenting the meaning of his words, and gravely informing the public that, in the opinion of a general officer holding a high position in his Majesty's service, 300,000 untrained volunteers would be a match for 600,000 trained German troops! The right hon. gentleman, when in office, was on several occasions his guest at Government House, Aldershot, and was fully aware of his views and ideas on military subjects. It was difficult to understand how any one could have drawn such inferences from the words he actually used. He did not, and could not, pretend to be versed in the subtleties of parliamentary debate; and since it appeared that an ex-secretary of state for war claimed the right of using his great powers in such matters to intervene in the intercourse of soldiers on purely military subjects, and in doing so to entirely pervert and misrepresent to the country the ideas and opinions of those who were entrusted by the Sovereign with the training of his Majesty's troops, he must decline for the future to enter upon any discussion, however simple, if it was to be made public. On behalf of the Imperial Forces he thanked them for the kind way in which they had received the toast. (Cheers.)

The Master afterwards proposed "The Army Council," and expressed a sincere hope that the great scheme which had been worked out by Mr. Haldane—assisted, he supposed, by the distinguished members of the Army Council—might prove an entire success.

Mr. Haldane, who was warmly received, observed that the beginning of his public life he was "an optimist by profession"—it was always a good thing to be so—and, on the whole, he did not feel that that occasion was one on which there was any less reason than there had ever been for his being an optimist. The Army scheme had been received in the most generous way by the public, and he did not remember any occasion on which a more generous response had been made by the nation without distinction of party to the appeal which had been made to it. (Hear, hear.) The country gentlemen—men of every shade of political opinion—had come forward as one to bear their part in the discharge of a national duty. There were those who grudging the time and the money which was spent on armaments. One might hope for better days in this matter, but they could only come when the nations were at one. (Hear, hear.) At the present time the sky was wonderfully clear, but war was a thing which came suddenly. Organization for war could never be improvised, and therefore it was necessary in times of peace to make preparations for their defenses. (Cheers.) The Army Council, for whom he spoke, had indeed a difficult task. They were charged with the work of a great reorganization. He was grateful to them and to his civilian colleague Lord Portsmouth—who piloted the measure through to him, unknown chamber of the House of Lords—and to his friend Mr. Buchanan, who had provided them with the money. There might be differences of opinion about the present parliament, but a house of commons which passed an army scheme through in 12 days was a pretty effective house of commons, and if it succeeded they would owe a great deal to that House. He doubted whether the public yet realized the far-reaching magnitude of the changes which were taking place. The regular army had got a new organization which enabled a smaller number of men to be organized into a much larger expeditionary force than the nation had ever possessed. They had laid the foundations, and the parts of the building were being put into place week by week by his council. That had been possible because "this wonderful Parliament" had done what no other Parliament had ever attempted. The difficulties which attended the Army Council in working out such great changes were imperfectly appreciated, and there were people who thought that all these changes were as unnecessary as they were new. They did not realize that the British Army existed not for Great Britain but for the Empire. (Hear, hear.) Our army

was fashioned for overseas service. Because we had the greatest Empire of any nation we had, in the natural course of things, the greatest overseas Army in the world. Germany could not send half the men overseas that our small army was fashioned to send; France could not; no country could—even Japan could not. Our army was fashioned for long periods of service with the colors in distant parts of the earth, and our men who came home to the reserve were trained as the soldiers of no other nation had the chance of being trained. And our army was only a small part of the machinery of the defence of the empire. He believed that he was expressing the opinion of his colleagues when he said that the very essence of our army organization was based on our sea power and our command of the sea. (Hear, hear.) Once we diminished our command of the sea, the whole basis on which our army organization rested was gone. Because we commanded the sea we could afford to do with voluntary service—a service which fitted us best as an Imperial Power, whose soldiers must be trained to go for long periods to distant parts of the earth. We rested on voluntary service because the power of the navy enabled us to depend on it. It afforded him great satisfaction to know that in the last two years the army and the navy had been coming into closer and closer relations. The public did not know how often they met, and how much their problem had become a common problem. That was the work of the Defence Committee. One parliament rushed into excess in its desire to improve the fighting service, and another seemed to show signs of running in the contrary direction with at least sufficient rapidity; but the problem of the prudent man was to look at things not from any single point of view—not, above all, in the way of balancing two opinions, but to look at things steadily and as a whole. Let us not be driven into jingoism, or from the necessity of providing in a time of peace for a time of war because the sky was clear and because we had made alliances which, valuable as they were, might be torn up at short notice. For himself, and speaking on behalf of his colleagues of the Army Council, all they asked was to be left to do their work, trusted as long as they ought to be trusted by the public, and to bring about—if that were given to them—the accomplishment of the very great task they had in hand at the present time. (Cheers.)

For the toast of "The Houses of Parliament," Lord Portsmouth and Mr. F. R. Buchanan, M.P., responded, and other toasts followed.

NELSON'S ORDER FOR BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR

R. JOSEPH STOWER, the well-known auctioneer, has sold by order of the executors, the contents of the residence of the late Miss Georgina Helen Whiteside, of 14 Thurlow-place, S.W., and among them is a document of high historic interest—a single foolscap sheet comprising Nelson's order of sailing for the battle of Trafalgar, says the London Times. It was discovered in a locked drawer (of which the key had been lost) of a bureau, and with it was a medal, dated 1843, with a single clasp for Trafalgar, awarded to Henry Rich, midshipman, and afterwards captain. The medal and the Order were left by Captain Rich or a descendant to the father of the late owner, and the natural assumption is that, as the order was the one sent to Captain Durham, of the Defiance, it was in this ship that Rich served as midshipman. The body of the document is in the autograph of a secretary, is dated "From on board the Victory off Cadiz, 20 Sept., 1805," and is signed in Nelson's autograph, "Nelson and Bronte." The document is evidently a counterpart of one sent to all the ships under Nelson's command, and it would be interesting to know how many copies of it have survived. The Rich-Whiteside example has suffered somewhat from usage, is slightly torn in one or two places, and some of the names, particularly those in pencil, are almost illegible, but its historic interest is none the less great.

By the courteous permission of Mr. Stower, we are enabled to reprint the whole of the document. The first 16 ships constituted the "Rear Squadron" (Nos. 17, 18, 19 and 20 are left blank), and the remainder the "Van Squadron"—1, Temeraire, Captain Elias Harvey; 2, Superb, Captain Richd. G. Keats; 3, Victory, the Commander-in-Chief, Captain Thomas M. Hardy; 4, Neptune, Captain Thomas Fremantle; 5, Tigre, Captain Benjamin Hollowell; 6, Canopus, Rear-Admiral Thomas Lewis, Captain Fras. W. Austen; 7, Conqueror, Captain Israel Fellew; 8, Agamemnon, Captain Sir Edward Berry; 9, Leviathan, Captain Henry W. Bayntun; 10, Prince of Wales, Vice-Admiral Sir R. Calder, Captain W. Cumming; 11, Ajax, Captain W. Brown; 12, Minotaur, Captain Ch. J. M. Mansfield; 13, Queen, Captain Fras. Pender; 14, Donegal, Captain P. Malcolm; 15, Spencer, Captain Hon. R. Stopford; 16, Spartiate, Captain Sir Fras. Laforey.

These (with Nos. 17-20) constitute the Van Squadron, which, in this order, is also described as the "Starboard division." Nos. 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 16 (with three others—Britannia, Orion and Africa), constitute the schedule headed "Weather Line," as quoted on page

218 of Sir J. K. Laughton's monograph on "Nelson," published by Messrs. Macmillan (edition 1904).

The Rear Squadron or Larboard division, was thus arranged: 1, Prince, Captain Richard Grindall; 2, Mars, Captain Geo. Duff; 3, Royal Sovereign (name in pencil indecipherable); 4, Tonnant, Captain Charles Tyler; 5, Bellerophon, Captain John Cooke; 6, Colossus, Captain James N. Morris; 7, Achille, Captain Richard King; 8, Polyphemus, Captain R. Redmill; 9, Revenge, Captain R. Moorsom; 10, Britannia, Rear-Admiral Earl of Northesk; 11, W. G. Rutherford; 12, Defence, Captain George Hope; 13, Orion, Captain Ed. Codrington; 14, Zealous, Captain John O. Hardy; 15, Thunderer, Captain William Lechmore (?); 16, Defiance, Captain Ph. Ch. Durham; 17, Dreadnought, Vice-Admiral Collingwood, Captain Ed. Rotherham (these two names are crossed out).

The foregoing (except Britannia and Orion, which appear in the first list), comprised ships scheduled by Sir J. K. Laughton as constituting the Lee Line (p. 219), whilst the Zealous (Captain J. O. Hardy) does not appear in his list at all. With regard to No. 15, the Thunderer, the name in the order reads very much like that given above, but in the Laughton list the commander is stated to have been Lieutenant J. Stockham; and the erased names of Collingwood and Rotherham, opposite No. 17, the Dreadnought, are supplied by Sir J. K. Laughton in Captain J. Conn.

The order is addressed: "P. C. Durham, Esq., Captain of His Majesty's ship Defiance."

Henry Rich (the former owner of the document) is mentioned in O'Byrne's "Naval Biographical Dictionary" (1849); he was born in March, 1787, and entered the navy on March 7, 1801, on the Diligence, from which he was transferred, in November, 1804, to the Defiance, where he remained for some time and "partook of the glories of Trafalgar." He was placed on half-pay in December, 1815, and invested with the rank of commander November 3, 1846.

THE EXPENDITURE ON ARMAMENTS

MEETING of members of peace societies and others who advocate a reduction in expenditure upon the naval and military services was held at Caxton hall, Westminster. Lord Courtney of Penwith presided. Lord Avebury was prevented by influenza from attending, and wrote expressing his regret, says the London Times.

Lord Courtney said they could not but be painfully touched with some sense of weariness of repetition of what had been said before on the subject and said in vain. There was some consolation in the fact that they had friends and supporters all over the world, who, together, constituted a noble army of witnesses for their cause. But here was matter for discouragement. Here, in England, they had a peace-loving Ministry, a Prime Minister who gave them ground for believing, with the most unquestionable sincerity on his part, that this nation would be found foremost among the peoples of Europe in establishing a league of peace. Yet this Ministry had put before parliament estimates for expenditure upon the army and the navy amounting together to something like £60,000,000. That was done at a time of profound peace, when we had made special treaties of amity with many nations, and professed to have no cause of quarrel with reference to any one of them. It was often asked how they could trust men to keep the peace who were every year making preparations for war. That, of course, might be said of ourselves. It was possible that the preparations we made might sustain arguments in other lands much like those that were used here, and that out of our war budgets sprang the war budgets of other countries. In Germany there were the same professions of attachment to peace, with the plea that increasing commerce meant increasing peril, and increasing peril meant increasing means of defence. Thus it seemed that the growth of commerce, which ought to be the means of bringing peace among nations, involved preparations for war. Russia, overwhelmed with domestic difficulties, was bent upon re-establishing his navy. Neither were there encouraging signs across the Atlantic. The survey did not afford them complete satisfaction. Yet there were two things to be extracted from it. The first was that the present policy of the nations was a policy involving difficulties upon those nations; and the second that, turn wherever they might, they would find sincere professions on the part of every government that what they aimed at and desired was peace. Why was it that, professing peace as they did, they were all preparing for war? The secret was that just as we had no faith or too little faith in the professions of others, so others had no faith or too little faith in our professions. The first thing necessary to produce any real change in the actions of governments was to beget among nations a feeling of confidence in one another, a real belief that they did desire peace. He did not ask for disarmament, but he did ask that we might not be constantly pressing on the advances of others; that we might be ready to run some risk, if risk there was, in not increasing our armaments, and ready to say to other people, "If the time comes we believe we shall be able to defend ourselves, but we are not going to anticipate the necessity; we are ready to believe that other nations are as friendly as we are." If they would make the government of the nation sincere and active in the prosecution of peace they must press upon them the necessity of setting a tune of peace. It was a tune of war, of showing that they believe in the friendship of other nations, and not that they distrusted them, and of refusing to accept temptations for increasing their armaments. They must show that, as they were friendly to the world, they hoped and believed that the world was friendly to them. (Cheers.)

Balkan Question

WE have received a copy of the following memorandum, which the Balkan Committee have submitted to the Governments of the Great Powers, says the London Times:

The Murzsteg programme of reforms for Macedonia, first promulgated in October, 1903, has now been in existence for four years. The British government, before the production of that scheme by the Governments of Austria and Russia, proposed a much more drastic and far-reaching scheme, which was not, however, adopted. British public opinion, which was at the time profoundly dissatisfied with the meagre nature of the Murzsteg programme, has for four years watched its operation, and the various attempts which the Powers have made to develop it. Every movement has been closely followed and reported in this country, and there has been no lack of constant information as to the actual state of the interior of the country. The situation has finally assumed such proportions of horror, and the Great Powers have produced, by the character of their intervention, so much bloodshed, anarchy, and outrage of every description, that, on behalf of the many thousands in Great Britain and Ireland who feel strong indignation at the present condition of affairs, the Balkan Committee desire to state briefly what, in its opinion, have been the character and the results of the intervention of the Great Powers during the last four years; what is the present situation which has been produced by this intervention; and to make a final appeal to the Foreign Ministers of these Great Powers to alter their practical attitude towards the question, so as to intervene either effectively or not at all, in order that the ymay at least no longer be responsible for seriously aggravating the situation.

The effect of the reform scheme on Macedonia itself has been disastrous in the extreme. Clause 3 of the Murzsteg programme, however well-intentioned it may have been, and beneficial had it been carried into effect, has proved neither more nor less than a direct incentive to political murders on a vast scale. Although aware of the strength of race feeling and hatreds in the Balkan Peninsula, and of the methods of national propaganda open to the races under Turkish rule in Europe, the Powers definitely held out, but have not realized, the prospect of an approaching "modification of territorial boundaries of the administrative units, with a view to the more regular grouping of the different nationalities." The result has been to reduce the country to a welter of blood more horrible than that of 1903. Since the introduction of the reform scheme, in a country of about a million and a half inhabitants over 10,000 people have been murdered; and the monthly murder lists show no sign of diminution. Very many of these have been women and children, and the attendant circumstances have been of the most appalling description. Outrages of every kind have been still more numerous, and the destruction of houses, property and cattle has been and continues to be enormous.

Nationalist forces from outside Macedonia terrorize villages in order to effect political conversions, while the Turkish troops raid indiscriminately, in general avoid contact with armed bands, and find the defenceless villages an easy prey. There is a vast stream of emigration to America, encouraged in every possible way, so that in Central Macedonia in many villages there are hardly any able-bodied males left, but only women and children.

The officers of the Great Powers are quite powerless to mitigate these evils produced by the Murzsteg scheme. The Powers refuse to secure for them any right to interfere with the troops so that they can neither suppress bands nor improve the conduct of the soldiers. Without any adequate support they have achieved great success in the work they have been allowed to do—the improvement of the Gendarmerie. The result is that the Turkish authorities now deprive the reformed Gendarmerie in many instances of the normal function of preventing crime, and entrust this to the soldiers and the police. But it should be realized that, while the European officers have nothing whatever to do with soldiers or police, even in the case of the Gendarmerie they cannot give a single word of command or issue any order. In the cases of outrages they can do nothing except photograph the corpses and make a report for the information of their Governments.

The public opinion of Western Europe has long ago come to some conclusions. Just as it is impossible to suppose that the Turkish Government desires reform, or the suppression of the bands and the abolition of the Christian feud on which it has thrived so long, so it is impossible to believe that the Powers hitherto specially responsible for reform schemes in Macedonia have sincerely desired a pacification of the country or the establishment of law and order. The diplomacy of Austria, Russia and Germany has been consistently directed to putting obstacles in the path of real reform, to the raising of side issues, and to the securing of unimpaired sovereignty for the Sultan. Nor can it well be held that these Powers are not largely responsible for the present condition of the country. To give the most recent instance of the methods employed, the chief efforts of Austrian diplomacy during 1906 and 1907 were directed to securing for the Porte, against the opposition of the British Government, an increase of Customs duties. When the British Government pressed for an acceleration of the pace in regard to

Macedonian reform, it was consistently met with the reply that Austria would advance as soon as the sursat was agreed to by Great Britain. On this understanding Great Britain agreed, but Austria has since made no advance. Even the long-promised judicial scheme, originally to have been ready in January, and stated by Sir E. Grey in July last to be then almost ready, is only now being submitted to the Porte.

The effect upon British public opinion has undoubtedly been to harden and intensify it in its determination to support the means best calculated to bring the present system to an end. It is universally recognized that but for the opposition of certain Powers the concert could secure for the Financial Commission and the Gendarmerie officers a real executive control. If the European officers took over the command of the troops, and were responsible to the European Commission only, they could speedily suppress the bands and restore security for life and property, which are the immediate practical necessities.

Unless some action of this kind is taken it is impossible to entertain any hope that the anarchic degeneration of the country will be checked; and this degeneration, under a nominal scheme of European reform, can hardly end except in violent catastrophe, and in the great discredit in South-Eastern Europe to the Powers primarily responsible. Until the principle of control, for which the British Government has consistently pressed, is admitted, public opinion will not be reconciled to the Austro-Russian methods of reform; and should these methods ultimately provoke a crisis, as they seem calculated to do, it will certainly require the Government so to act that under no circumstances shall the issue of such a crisis be any reinforcement of the present regime or the renewal of a mandate to those who have so conspicuously failed hitherto, although, by due efforts, a far greater measure of success might have been attained.

J. Westlake, President.
Noel Buxton, Chairman.
W. A. Moore, Secretary.

A RAILWAY PIONEER

HERE is a gentleman at the Windsor who commands at the present time no less than ten thousand men, who are working, not in the cause of war, but for the extension of Canada's railway system, says the Montreal Gazette in a recent issue. All have heard a great deal of the famous McArthur section of the Grand Trunk Pacific and of the alleged delays which have taken place on that part of the Transcontinental between the city of Winnipeg and Lake Superior Junction, a distance of 250 miles. Mr. J. D. McArthur, the contractor in question, gives an interesting description of what he calls the most important and most difficult piece of railway building ever undertaken in the Dominion.

At first the labor situation was the most difficult obstacle they had to surmount, and Mr. McArthur declared yesterday that he had thrown away a good part of his profits in securing men to carry on this contract, the importance of which he fully understands, as it is the G.T.P.'s connecting link between the Great Lakes and the granary of the West. All winter long he has had seven thousand men at work, and he says that 60 per cent of the whole has been completed, and that the grading will be about finished by the end of the present year. A good part is rock cutting, although fifty miles of prairie work east of Winnipeg has already been accomplished, and some sixty miles of rails have been laid down.

The greater number of this laborious army are Scandinavians, while there are also a good many Italians and quite a lot of Galicians, all of whom, Mr. McArthur says, are good railway workers. The Galicians do not like the rock work as well as the prairie sections, but they get along very well. The contractor stated that his men had not lost a single day all winter, and in fact he had never in all his long experience in railway work seen such a favorable season for outdoor work. At first this contract was held to cost about \$13,000,000; but when they got to work there were so many changes made in the location that the contract, when completed, will represent an outlay of not much less than \$16,000,000. Mr. McArthur says, however, that there will be no rebuilding of the Grand Trunk Pacific, as it is now being constructed for years to come. There are, he adds, a good many heavy bridges on the contract, and all of these are being built of steel and concrete, nothing being spared to make the road a superior one in every particular.

In fact, Mr. McArthur states that the construction of such great works as the Grand Trunk Pacific, the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian Northern, and the great expenditure which is being made on all of these roads, will prove the saving clause to the Dominion's prosperity, while the country to the south of us is suffering all sorts of commercial and financial panics. Every cent's worth of the supplies are purchased in Canada, and all is going into the pockets of the Canadian people. It is a wonderful sight, he adds, to see the immense supplies that are already along the route, enough for the entire summer's operation. It is quite likely, Mr. McArthur stated, that a contract will be given out on a section to the eastward of Lake Superior Junction by the time the grading is done on his section, so that a part of his army of workers can be transferred to the next section.