

# A Critic on "The Emperor's New Clothes"

THE following letter appeared in a recent issue of the London Times:

Sir—Every one knows the story of "The Emperor and His New Clothes"; how the Emperor, charmed by the eloquence and convinced by imaginary garments of which the beauty and splendor, he was assured, were apparent only to very clever people. The Emperor being, of course, a very clever man, could not fail to recognize the perfection of that which the common eye was not privileged to behold. The courtiers, who, of course, were all very clever people, too, naturally saw what the Emperor saw; and finally His Majesty displayed himself to an admiring people clad in his beautiful new clothes. "How splendid are the Emperor's new clothes!" cried all the courtiers; "how novel their cut, how magnificent their material!" And all went merry as a marriage bell until at last a person in the crowd, who was obscure and not a courtier at all, cried out, "But the Emperor has no clothes!" Whereupon the whole assembly, not being courtiers either, and being quite simple folk who thought that two and two make four, cried out with one voice, "But the Emperor has no clothes!" And that indeed was the plain truth; the Emperor was as naked as he was born.

We need not go far to apply the moral of the old fable. In 1906 the Secretary of State for War propounded a great scheme of army reform which was to reduce expenditure, to double the fighting efficiency of the army, to create a great national force, and to solve all our military problems on the most exalted scientific principles. For two years and a half a daily hymn of praise has gone up extolling the virtues of the great scheme and calling upon us to admire its beneficial and wonder-working character. It is true that the principal member of the choir has been the author of the scheme. The national audience have stood by in patient and puzzled amazement, trying to find out where the great object which they were all invited to contemplate and admire was to be seen. They have waited long enough. They have seen nothing, and it is time they should understand that, however long they wait, they will still see nothing. "The Emperor has no clothes," never had, and never will have.

The time has come for dissipating the myth which has so long occupied and excited public attention. Perhaps the following facts may help to make the situation clear; they are true, incontrovertible, and vouched for by official documents and figures, all of which are available to the public.

In July, 1906, the new army scheme was expounded to the House of Commons in a speech which lasted over three hours. The scheme as then propounded received much praise; possibly it deserved it. If so, the fact is of historical interest only, for not a fragment of that scheme remains. Every item of it has been abandoned or utterly transformed. Since 1906 we have had several other schemes, and innumerable modifications of each of them. The history of these modifications and abandonments is curious, and well worth telling; but there is not space to recite it here. What we are at present concerned with is the net result of the whole business, the outcome of all the schemes, and of the innumerable speeches in which they have been commended to a trustful but simple public.

There were to have been great economies. Mr. Haldane has told us over and over again that he has saved two millions on the army estimates. Let us see. On May 11, in reply to Mr. Harold Cox, the Secretary of State for War said: "The estimates for 1908-9 show a reduction of £1,020,000 on the actual expenditure of 1905-6, and I have no reason for revising this estimate"; £1,020,000 is a very different figure from £2,000,000. But this is only half the story. On May 25, in reply to the same question, the Secretary of State informed the House of Commons that in 1905 the sum of £1,478,000 was spent upon the re-arming of the horse and field artillery; an abnormal and temporary charge. It will be seen that, allowing for this item, which was not part of the normal expenditure of the year, the expenditure of 1905-6 was less than the estimate for 1908-9 by £458,000.

"But," says the Secretary of State in his answer of May 25, "the right hon. gentleman who asks the question has forgotten the expenditure on loan in 1905. Taking into account the loan figure, the estimates of 1908-9 are £420,000 less than the total expenditure of 1905-6." As a matter of fact the right hon. gentleman had not forgotten the loan expenditure, but had not mentioned it for two reasons. In the first place; no reference was made to it in the Secretary of State's own answer given only ten days earlier; and, in the second place, it has nothing whatever to do with the case. When the loan system was abandoned we were told that sums formerly charged on loan would for the future be charged on estimates. They have not been so charged, and in consequence absolutely necessary services have been left unperformed. The extension of Sandhurst, which was to have been put in hand in 1906, has only just been begun, and the nominal sum of £53,000 is taken for it this year. The work of barrack repair and barrack construction has been practically abandoned, and tumble-down and insanitary buildings which are absolutely unfit for the reception of troops, and some of which were built as far back as the time of George II, are still retained. The fact

that no money is spent on these buildings does not mean that no money will be spent. The work which was necessary in 1905 is still more necessary now, and it will all have to be done under some future administration.

Anxious still further to extenuate the unfortunate admission which facts compelled him to make, Mr. Haldane informed the House that the expenditure on re-arming has been "replaced to the extent of over half a million in the estimates of 1908-9 by expenditure on other armament services." The fact is in any case absolutely irrelevant to the main argument. It may have been impossible to make any saving, but then why pretend that a saving has been made? But the explanation itself will not bear a moment's examination. At the head of Vote 9 in the present estimates appears the following statement: "Vote 9. Armaments and Engineers' Stores, decrease £181,000 due to the completion of the re-arming of the horse and field artillery, for which £476,000 was taken in 1907-8. There is an increased provision for small-arm ammunition, of which there are no longer surpluses, and for small arms on account of the adoption of new patterns of bayonet and cavalry sword." In other words, there is no abnormal expenditure this year, save that which is due to replacing ammunition which has been drawn from stocks which have become superfluous on account of the reduction of men.

But, apart from what are details, though very important details, there stands out this incontrovertible fact. After making every allowance, and accepting every excuse, we find that the estimates of the current year are only £420,000 less than the expenditure of 1905-6. The saving of £2,000,000 on the army is part of the great myth which is now being dissolved.

Let us now see what the nation has gained or lost as the result of this so-called reduction. The facts are startling. In 1905-6 the establishment of the regular army, home and colonial, was 221,306. The corresponding figure for 1908-9 is 185,000, a reduction of 36,306 men. (See estimates for respective years, page 12.) On May 1, 1908, the army was 6,894 officers and men below its reduced establishment (see answer of Secretary of State, May 20). But establishments are comparatively unimportant as compared with strength. We are now officially informed that between October 1, 1905, and May 1, 1908, the regular army has lost 431 officers and 23,154 of other ranks, including over a thousand N.C.O.'s. During the same period the militia has lost 237 officers and 4,202 N.C.O.'s and men, a grand total of 668 officers and 27,358 men. Meanwhile the volunteers have been turned into territorials, and on May 27 the Under-Secretary of State told parliament that, of the 239,786 men who composed the volunteer force on January 1, only 72,179 have transferred to the territorial force, leaving for the time being a deficit of 167,607 men. The greater number of these will probably join the

new force in time; but it is curious and significant that most of those who have joined the territorial army are men who have transferred from the volunteers for one year's service only. The number of actual enlistments under the new terms and for four years is exceedingly small; in some corps it does not exceed 2 or 3 per cent of the strength. However, the territorial army is a matter of small importance as compared with the regular army, and to this we must for a moment return.

We have seen that the regular army has already lost 431 officers and 23,154 men. Mr. Haldane said in one of his earlier speeches that he was going to adhere rigidly to the principle of discarding only that which was unfit for war. The ideas of the army council as to what is unfit are curious. Five thousand men of the Royal Garrison Artillery, 1,000 men of the Royal Engineers, 800 men of the Brigade of Guards, eight battalions of the infantry of the line, all good, and one of them pronounced by Lord Grenfell to be the best battalion in Ireland, have been got rid of. If any one wishes to see what is the fighting material Mr. Haldane is putting in the place of what he has discarded, let him go to the main gates of the infantry depots in about two months' time, when the little boys of 17-12, who will have just finished their training at the depots, are being turned adrift into the streets.

But it must not be supposed that when we have described the mischief which has already been done we have come to the end of the story. Nearly 24,000 regular soldiers have gone; many more are to follow. The Secretary of State has given us his positive assurance that another battalion of the Guards—one of the very best in the army—is to be destroyed. Two thousand four hundred men of the Royal Horse and Field Artillery are scheduled in this year's estimates for destruction. It is still possible to hope that neither of the last-mentioned acts of folly will actually be perpetrated. But even if these admirable soldiers are spared, the future will bring us terrible losses. The reserves which would have been created by the 23,000 men who have been dismissed will never come into existence. The reserve-making power of the army as a whole has been enormously curtailed. The extension of the term of color service from three years to six and seven years reduces the reserve-making power by from 65 to 70 per cent. It was necessary to increase the length of color service for a portion of the army, but that very fact made it incumbent upon the army council to provide for an increase in the reserves in some other manner. Mr. Haldane has frequently spoken of the present great reserve of the army as if he had something to do with its creation. Every soldier knows perfectly well that it exists despite the present policy of Lord Middleton. In a few years this large reserve will begin to disappear, and there will be no means of replacing it.

The Secretary of State told the House of Commons that the militia had diminished by 237 officers and 4,202 men. It would perhaps have been well if he had added that in a year's time it will have disappeared altogether, officers, N.C.O.'s, and men. It may perhaps be suggested that the militia may some day be replaced by the Special Reserve. But this is impossible. The entire establishment of the Special Reserve is 15,559 men less than the actual strength of the militia in 1905-6. Mr. Haldane appears to be under the impression that some 10,000 boys have already enlisted for the Special Reserve. Any subaltern at any depot could tell him that he is mistaken, and that from 80 per cent to 90 per cent of the entries are nominal only, the boys joining the Special Reserve merely for the purpose of getting a £2 bounty when they pass to the line three months later. Probably the Special Reserve will eventually be formed out of the rejections at the depots. It has not been formed yet, and, as I should like to show on some other occasion, it will be absolutely useless when it is formed.

We have seen, therefore, that up to the present we have lost 668 regular and militia officers, 27,358 men of the regulars and militia; that we stand to lose some 15,000 to 20,000 more regulars and the whole of the militia. That we have lost, for the time being, at any rate, some 160,000 of the volunteers, of whom, however, I imagine, the majority will probably come back. If they do come back, it will simply be because they realize that General MacKinnon and the Duke of Argyll were right when they said that nothing more is to be demanded of the force when spent with a "T" than was asked from it when it was spent with a "V." And yet we have started us in the face the statement of the Norfolk commission to the effect that, "taking the force as a whole, neither the musketry nor the tactical training of the rank and file would enable it to face, with a prospect of success, the troops of a Continental army."

If we have lost in men, have we gained anything in money? The answer is, "Certainly not." The very best case the Secretary of State can make out is that we have saved £420,000. We have saved it solely because necessary expenditure has been postponed. The barracks work has still to be done, the shortage of 6,000 men has to be made up, and the Secretary of State has told us that he proposes to restore the establishment of the infantry battalions to a proper figure. If the new establishment of 800, this arrangement alone will involve the addition of 7,680 men to the battalions after the present deficiency has been made up. The average cost per man is about £70, or £537,600 for the total number. We have not yet come to the beginning of the expenditure for the territorial army. Nothing has been taken for artillery ammunition, for ranges, or for housing, and each of the 182 batteries is to cost £2,400 a year. The stores which have

been depleted will have to be made good. The army estimates must go up, and must go up rapidly.

Such, then, is the outcome of the new scheme up to date—195,000 men gone, many thousands more going, the certainty of greatly increased expenditure, the loss of some of the best fighting elements in the army, the certainty of a great contraction of the reserve in the future, and the entire destruction of the militia. We are promised some vague additions to our force in the shape of ex-militiamen and civilians, who are some day to be made available for army purposes. When opportunity serves I should like to explain what is the true nature and value of these additions. For the present I speak of what has been accomplished.

I have shown what we have lost. What have we gained? What have we to set against this terrible destruction of fighting material? In the first place, we have the brigading of the volunteer force, which represents almost the only instance of continuity of policy. The organization of the volunteers into brigades and divisions, as settled by the army council in 1905, has been adopted and improved. It is just to name this one item on the credit side. But what is there beyond? The answer is that in return for all we have lost we have gained nothing, nothing but interminable columns of speeches and endless fine phrases about things which do not exist. It is time—it is high time—that the people of this country should realize that after all "the Emperor has no clothes."

I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
H. O. ARNOLD-FORSTER.  
2 The Abbey Gardens, Westminster.

## ON KASHMIR'S PEAKS

Terrible changes in temperature are part of the phenomena encountered by those who scale the peaks of Kashmir. William Hunter Workman writes of experiences in the Nun Kun mountain group: "Our fourth snow camp was pitched at an altitude of 21,300 feet. The porters could only bring half the necessary kit at one time, so they and the guide descended to the third camp for the rest, intending to return that afternoon. But a dense mist after midday, and the softening of the snow by the great heat prevented their return, so that we were left to pass the night alone in the almost terrifying silence and loneliness of this untrodden solitude of snow. We did not sleep. As I have found before under similar circumstances, the absolute silence that reigned during the watches of the night, in the absence of sleep, proved almost as nerve-wearing as an excess of noise. In such a situation one has the feeling of having completely lost touch with the material world, and the imagination, uncontrolled by the suggestions of ordinary sounds, runs riot among fancies and possibilities neither wholly pleasing nor reassuring."

"The afternoon was windless and oppressively hot. The sun shone through the drifting mist with a sickly light, but with a heat that sent the mercury in the solar thermometer up to 103 degrees Fahrenheit at 2 o'clock, and to 142 degrees Fahrenheit at 3.30 o'clock. The heat was equally unbearable within and without the tents, and all the harder to endure because of the mist, which, while shutting out all view of the world around, shut in the heat, so that it became a palpable entity penetrating to every part of the system with depressing effect. At sunset the temperature fell to freezing, and an hour later to 10 degrees Fahrenheit, reaching a minimum of -4 degrees before morning, a difference of 197 degrees. At daylight Savoy and two porters arrived, their faces blue with cold and their mustaches covered with ice. Having drawn on our frozen boots, we set out to ascend the steep ice-covered flank of the mountain above, its lower half broken into ice-falls where almost every step had to be cut. The temperature fell that night to -6 degrees Fahrenheit."

"Of the mountain sickness that overtook a porter the same writer remarks: "Before reaching an altitude of 21,000 feet, though naturally a strong and healthy man, he collapsed entirely and became helpless. He complained of loss of sensation in his hands. His woolen mittens being drawn off, his fingers were found white and stiff, and if not already frost-bitten, on the point of becoming so. Vigorous rubbing and pounding of his hands finally restored circulation, when he was sent down to the third camp. The fact that his hands, even when protected by thick woolen mittens, were brought by the cold to the verge of frostbite, while my own, without any covering, were comfortably warm, shows how profoundly the circulation and vitality are prostrated by mountain sickness."

"Of the difficult breathing at such high altitudes, "This constant gasping for breath interfered with sleep, no matter how tired one might be, and if at last, after a long period of prostrating wakefulness, one did doze for a moment, one would immediately start up with frantic efforts to obtain sufficient oxygen to relieve the stifling sensation which threatened to terminate one's existence. During the five nights at our three highest camps no one obtained more than a few snatches of sleep, and four of whom I was one, practically none at all. Those nights are not easily forgotten, when one lay sleepless on the snow, in the cold and silence and darkness, struggling for breath, and counting the slowly dragging hours with a feeling that the strain could not be endured till daylight."

## Canada at the Franco-British Exposition

ANADA'S exhibit at the Franco-British exhibition is receiving unstinted praise, as is Mr. William Hutchison, of Ottawa, the popular Official in charge. Over in England Mr. Hutchison is given his full title, "Colonel," although in Ottawa he is familiarly known as "Bill." The Standard of Empire pays him tribute in the following interesting description of the Canadian exhibit:

The Canadian Palace stands out amidst all this magnificence with a conspicuousness and character of its own. One of the largest separate buildings in this city of great erections, it is also the purest in architecture. Some of the palaces in the City of the Entente are of a rather rococo style—which is not out of place in a great popular exhibition—but the Dominion building is a fine specimen of pure Renaissance design. It is as lofty and massive as a cathedral, and is approached on three sides by fine porticoes. The roof supports a number of hexagonal domes, the central and largest one bearing on each of its sides the design of a great maple leaf, which is outlined at night with electric glow lamps.

There have been special difficulties attendant on the preparation of this splendid hall, foremost among them being delays in obtaining delivery of material, but the work is being rapidly pushed forward with the aid of a large staff, and Canada will have the satisfaction at its conclusion of possessing the finest separate exhibit in the whole exhibition.

Colonel Hutchison, who is organizing the exhibit, has been overworking himself with the zest of an enthusiast to get the palace in perfect order for the June rush of visitors. In the course of a special interview and tour of inspection, he directed special attention to the great trophy which reaches up into the dome from the centre of the hall, and is conceived in the spirit of the famous Canadian arch at the King's Coronation.

"The trophy represents Canada's wheat hopper, which in the last resource is the mainstay of the All-Red Route and the empire's granary," he said.

"The hopper itself, as you see, towers right up to the roof. It is topped with bags of flour, and is surrounded by great cornucopias woven out of Canadian wheat straw. At the base of the trophy we are making a display of Canadian grains, and the four arches will be filled

with portraits of the King, the Queen, the Prince and the Princess of Wales.

"One of our special attractions will be a group of nature's earliest tree-fellers and engineers—beavers. Here they are."

### The Beaver-Dam

The Canadian beavers will certainly be visited by all the children at the exhibition. There are five of them; all alive, and they have made their home in front of a cleverly contrived model of a beaver-dam, from which a cascade of water falls into a miniature pool below. They were all eating with great appetite during our representative's inspection, and, with a painted stage setting of a Canadian stream and forest scene behind them, they formed a remarkably natural and attractive picture. There is a supply of birch logs for the beavers to sharpen their teeth on.

"These trophies on either side of the dam are being covered with specimens of Canadian woods," continued Colonel Hutchison. "There are other specimens in panels on the walls."

"The series of oil pictures running all round the palace are of typical Canadian scenes and homesteads. They are all transparencies, and will be lighted up at night by electricity. The big set-piece yonder is a built up horticultural scene. It is a composite picture, taken from several landscapes."

Passing a good display of agricultural machinery, Colonel Hutchison stopped at a large glass case, and tore away a corner of the sheeting with which it was carefully covered.

"Look at this statuary group, and tell me what it is sculptured in," he said.

The group was a very fine one, representing Jacques Cartier, the explorer, and a boatman in a boat, while on the shore close at hand stood an erect and dignified Indian. The chiselling of this group throughout is very clean, and the commanding form of the nude Indian is superb in its realism. To all appearance, the sculptor's material was a very fine quality of creamy marble.

### Wonderful Statuary

"Carved in butter-frozen butter—every one of them," was the colonel's startling remark. "There came in another of our difficulties, by the way. We could not get sufficient electric power for refrigerating purposes, and have had to lay down our own cold stor-

age plant. The next case will contain frozen butter portrait statues of the King and Queen."

A tour of the palace, which contains 120,000 square feet of floor space, showed that the arrangement and display of the exhibits from the different provinces of the Dominion were nearly complete. Ontario is making a capital show of machinery, woods, and woolens. There are fish and garden produce from Nova Scotia; while New Brunswick shows mineral specimens, and Manitoba and the Northwest have a great display of magnificent grains. Quebec shows wood and wood pulp for paper-making; and British Columbia has a rich display of fruits and colonial produce of many kinds.

The final effect produced by the Canadian exhibit is one of boundless opulence and unrivalled energy. Every one who visits this spacious building, erected at a cost of over £85,000, will come away realizing what Canada means to the Empire as a grain-store now—and still more what Canada means to the Empire as a store of manhood in the years to come.

This great hall is an epitome of the Dominion's resources. It forces one to realize that Canada's future as a manufacturing country must keep pace with its agricultural development. With all the climatic advantages of California, with vast deposits of mineral wealth which have yet been hardly tapped, Canada is clearly the great coming nation of the world—a second United States under the Empire's flag. The manufactures shown combine the solidity of English productions with the ingenuity of the American. The rows on rows of exhibits, whether tools, machinery, furniture or clothing materials, all bear evidence of highly intelligent design and soundness of manufacture. It goes without saying that the display of polished and natural woods is second to none, that the fruits and cereals are rich in quality as they are wonderful in their variety, and that the dairy produce is excellent.

In another sense the Canadian Palace is the psychological centre of the exhibition. Within its walls the people of the two great world-empires can meet on common ground, for it enshrines the combined national genius of the Anglo-Saxon and French races.

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