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SEVERELY CRITICIZED

For the Conduct of the War.

LIBERAL LEADERS IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT ATTACK THE ADMINISTRATION—ALL PARTIES AGREE IN PRESSING ON THE CONTEST.

London, Jan. 31.—In the House of Lords yesterday, the Duke of Somerset moved the address in reply to the Queen's speech, and the Earl of Shaftesbury seconded the motion. The Duke of Somerset in moving the address, said he looked forward confidently to a successful termination of the war. He urged the necessity for reform in the military administration and said that, hitherto the army seemed to have existed for the benefit of the war office, and that in future, the war office must exist for the benefit of the army.

The Duke of Somerset then eulogized the loyalty of the colonies, especially Canada, and strongly deprecated the adverse criticism of Gen. Buller, his remarks in this connection being cheered. He said he had every confidence in Gen. Buller and in Lord Roberts.

A MODERATE CRITICISM.

The Earl of Shaftesbury, Conservative, emphasized the debt of gratitude which Great Britain owed to her colonies and expressed satisfaction at the settlement of the Samoa question.

The Liberal leader in the house of lords, the Earl of Kimberley, followed. He said he was glad to learn that Great Britain's relations with other states were friendly. He added that he believed the term could be justly applied to the relations with European governments and the United States, and deprecated undue attention to the attacks of the foreign press. His lordship congratulated Lord Salisbury on the conclusion of the agreement with Germany, but strongly disapproved of the tone of Mr. Chamberlain's speeches. In that connection, however, he paid a warm tribute to the conduct of the soldiers in the field and to the loyalty of the British colonies.

The Earl of Kimberley, continuing, said that although the moment was one of the deepest gravity, he would entirely abstain from criticizing the conduct of the generals. It was the duty of the government to select men to conduct these operations and it was their duty to support the government. He was, therefore, unable to make any criticism of the operations. He did not mean to imply that the generals were not doing their utmost to fulfill their arduous duties, but government would be wise if it made every effort to prepare thoroughly for what might occur in the future. Continuing, Lord Kimberley said:

"We might meet a period of disaster, and, although our relations with the other powers are friendly, it would be well if the government prepared for all eventualities and all dangers and be ready with the means to surmount them. The government does not seem to have been aware of the scale of preparations of arms and munition in the Transvaal through Lorenzo Marques. Continuing the premier said:

"Why were we to know about the importation of arms? I believe guns were introduced into the Transvaal in boilers and munitions of war in piano cases. We had a small secret service fund. If you want much information you must give much money. I consider the enormous amounts spent by other governments, especially the Transvaal, which I have heard on high diplomatic authority spent £200,000 in a single year, and the small sums spent by England made it impossible for us to have the omniscience attrib-

uted to us by Lord Kimberley. I am glad he has not pressed an immediate inquiry into the action of the military authorities at a time when our generals in the field and many of those who could give the most valuable information are unable to appear. We should defer an inquiry to a more convenient season."

Later the premier admitted the deficiencies of the existing system, remarking that the treasury had acquired a power which was not to the public benefit. He had not thought of looking into the past history or examining the amount of blame to be attached to this or that minister.

"It is not," he said, "quite the right way of dealing with the present crisis. We must join together and exercise all power in extricating ourselves from a situation full of humiliations and not free from danger. I will not say that the danger may not have been exaggerated. Many a country has come through a war with difficulties of the kind we experience. We have only to look at what the northern states of America went through at the beginning of the civil war to see that the inference from the reverses we have met at the outset. We have every ground to think that if we set ourselves entirely to work and exert all the undoubted instruments of the power we possess we shall bring the war to a satisfactory conclusion. We have work which appeals to us as subjects of the Queen and as Englishmen and it must throw in the shade all thoughts of party expediency."

Lord Salisbury then said he regretted that Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice, in the house of commons, was about to bring this great issue into party controversy, adding that the only place where his action would meet with sympathy was in Pretoria.

"Our efforts," the premier continued, "must be to retrieve ourselves from the present situation, which cannot be allowed to last. This empire is a valuable and splendid, but responsible possession. We must concentrate our efforts. If we do not tame all the smaller passions into one great duty we run the danger of convulsions which will tarnish the empire's lustre and perhaps menace its integrity."

After Lord Salisbury had spoken, Lord Rosebery made a fiery speech, demanding of the government what it was going to do, and adding that the country would shrink from no sacrifice which the burning emergency might demand.

ROSEBERY IS APPALLED.

Lord Rosebery spoke with great force and earnestness. He asked why the premier made it so difficult for the man in the street to support his policy. The past conduct of the government would come up for investigation some day, he hoped, adding: "I have the right to know if, before the crisis, the intelligence department supplied the government sufficient information. If not, dismiss the department. If the government's responsibility is heavy, I hope that when the time for investigation arrives, those who have served the queen well will be covered with such glory that the eyes of the investigators will be dazzled."

"I was appalled at the nature and style of Lord Salisbury's speech. We have now 123,000 men in South Africa, and we are not to know what the attitude of foreign nations is described as friendly. But that does not strike me as being so amiable as the word would imply. It is necessary to know what the government is going to do. Lord Salisbury said the cause of our casualties was the smallness of the secret fund and the British constitution. But what is the government's duty? Some form of compulsory service must be introduced to meet the growing exigencies of the empire, and I am sure the nation will not shrink from either the empire's predominance. That we should not shrink from sending away vast masses of troops situated as we are in the theatre of the world, by no means friendly to us without having a hint from the government of the military measures it proposes taking to face the disasters we have met and the sacrifices we have made, is one of the most extraordinary features of the British constitution."

"I agree with Lord Salisbury that the country can carry through in spite of all the impediments of men and methods which have shackled it in the past, but I venture to say it will have to be inspired by a loftier tone and truer patriotism

than that shown by the prime minister."

The Marquis of Lansdowne, secretary of state for war, said he was prepared to make a statement at a future date. The government, he said, was not prepared and had excellent reasons for not pushing its arrangements further.

The address in reply to the speech from the throne was then adopted.

IN THE COMMONS.

In the commons in moving the address, Capt. Pellyman, who is a retired captain of artillery, said an inquiry was necessary, as to how the requirements of the war had been so underestimated. The captain then supported the union of all parties in support of the government in its efforts to satisfactorily conclude a just war.

The Liberal leader in the house of commons, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, then rose to reply, amidst cheers from the opposition benches. Commenting on the Queen's speech, he said he had seldom known so little to be said in such a large number of words. As, however, the war advanced it became more difficult and more critical, and he was not surprised that the government had not proposed a formidable program. But the country had again and again gone through greater perils with courage and composure, and would not now depart from its high traditions.

The courage and fortitude of British soldiers was never more conspicuous, and they must associate with this the sons of the colonies who had shown extraordinary aptitude in this kind of warfare. He appreciated the gallantry and devotion which led their countrymen to volunteer, but he wished to know the reasons which necessitated this unusual method of reinforcing the army. He and his friends had resolved to press the vigorous prosecution of the war that the integrity of the Queen's domains be speedily vindicated and he imagined there would be no difficulty in obtaining the additional supplies necessary.

"Here my agreement with the government ceases," said the Liberal leader.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman then proceeded with a bitter condemnation of the administration and the temper in which it had approached the whole South African problem, saying that the narrowness of the government's provision for military requirements necessitated hostilities, and asserting that its policy made war probable. He believed this feeling was largely shared by the house, and was glad of the opportunity presented to express his opinion.

The speaker repudiated the idea that they should await the end of the war before discussing the matter. This was the very time for effective criticism, and those wishing to disclaim responsibility should do so now.

"The ministers tell us," Sir Henry continued, "that this war was undertaken to secure equal rights for white men. I hope they will transfer this laudable doctrine to this country. Many instances might be applied when too little consideration has been shown under Mr. Chamberlain's administration to the loyal Dutch of Cape Colony. The Cape ministers, who are as much crown ministers as Mr. Chamberlain's treated them in a manner ill-calculated to allay doubts and fears."

MR. BALFOUR'S DEFENCE.

Arthur J. Balfour, after a vain attempt to draw Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman into an admission that he did not advocate pushing the war into Boer territory, reproached him with waiting until the country had become involved in military difficulties to bring a vote of censure of the colonial secretary, which might have been brought, Mr. Balfour declared, any time since 1895. In general defense of the colonial secretary and the government's policy Mr. Balfour said that at one time the government believed the war would be avoided, but had subsequently become convinced that the Boer government acted from the first intended to give those franchise concessions, the withholding of which meant war.

He denied that Gen. Buller had expressed the opinion that the force sent on were inadequate. On the contrary, Gen. Buller held the common military opinion that the forces sent were quite sufficient. If the govern-

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FRIDAY, FEB. 16TH,

Is the Date Fixed for the Patriotic Concert.

Committees Appointed and General Arrangements Made—Prices of Admission.

Another well attended meeting of those interested in the presentation of the patriotic concert for the benefit of the members of the Canadian contingents, who are serving their empire in South Africa, was held last evening in the parlors of the Hotel Garner. There were present J. B. Rankin, Q. C., who presided, and Messrs. J. W. McLean, J. E. Brock, C. O'Hara, J. W. Wilson, H. Brown and others.

Major Rankin reported that he had secured the hearty endorsement and cooperation of the county council in the matter and on their suggestion had corresponded with a large number of artists throughout the country. Major Rankin's action was thoroughly endorsed.

The meeting was then informally reorganized into a committee of the whole to strike a rough draft of the program and make preliminary preparations for the various rehearsals. This was done upon the lines previously outlined in The Planet.

Considerable discussion took place relative to the prices, which were finally fixed at \$1, 75c, 50c and 25c, while \$5 will be charged for the boxes should they be required.

On motion of Mr. Brock, seconded by Miss Swan, it was unanimously decided to hold the concert on the evening of Friday, Feb. 16th. The program committee were authorized to make arrangements with the management of the opera house.

Mr. Forsythe said that the male quartette would probably consist of Messrs. Harry Horstead, Geof. O'Hara, Morton Sheldon and Wm. Wilson, while the ladies' quartette was left in the hands of Mrs. John Cooper.

It was decided to hold the first general rehearsal next Friday evening, at such hall as Major Rankin shall arrange for and announce and a general meeting to report progress will be held next Monday evening.

It was decided to at once proceed with the printing and distribution of tickets for sale, Major Rankin mentioning that his worship Mayor Smith and several ladies had already generously volunteered to assist in this part of the undertaking.

Major Rankin said that he had received a generous offer from Mr. S. Stephenson, proprietor of The Planet, to do whatever printing he might require for the patriotic concert without any charge.

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