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**SUN PRINTING COMPANY.**  
ALFRED MARKHAM,  
Manager.

## THE SEMI-WEEKLY SUN

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 20, 1899.

### WAKING UP.

The British war office, backed up by the public spirit of the nation and the might of the empire, is setting to work with energy to turn the tide of battle which, for the past week only, has been against British arms. It has been the fashion, to speak of the Boers as fighting a "war of attrition," so far the odds have been the other way. Weeks ago the Boers claimed to have an available force of 50,000 men in the two republics. This may have been an exaggeration, but it would be easy to show that they had at least 50,000 men over the frontier. This British may have now something like that number at the front, including the beleaguered garrisons, but that would be at the outside number at this moment. Operating on interior lines, with no communications to keep open, with the choice of position, and their acquaintance with the country, the Boers have an advantage equal to fifty per cent. numerical superiority. They have a large army of foreigners, how large no one knows, but whatever men money could hire they were able to command. Moreover, it appears from the Boer papers printed today that a large part of the force by which General Gatacre was repulsed was raised in Cape Colony, Burgersdorp and Allwal are both British towns, represented in the Cape Colony legislature. One of the Boer detachments went to go into action against the British at Magerfontein, which was composed of Scandinavians. Whether they were recruited from settlers in the Transvaal, or hired in their native country, does not appear, but it is known that men have been hired in all European countries, and that the plunder taken from the Outlanders pays for it all.

There is one reason why Great Britain, with her enormous resources, should allow her troops to be placed against superior numbers as well as against stronger positions. The war office is therefore making a call which will place a great army in South Africa. The British regular army, at home and in the colonies, exclusive of the regular army serving in India, is supposed to number 140,000 effective men. The regular forces in India should be 70,000. It is necessary to have an army in India, though some battalions have been called to Africa from there. There are always a number on the sick list of the Indian unit, and Britain will not leave Gibraltar and other posts without forces. But it has been shown that she was able to despatch a large body of men to Africa without calling on the reserves. The army reserve numbers 52,000 men. These are almost if not quite as good men as the regular forces. They are all veterans, who have served, out their time with the colors. They would practically all be under thirty-five, and probably, most of them, under thirty years of age. The members of the army reserve have been drawing pay on the understanding that they could be called on when needed, and they have cheerfully responded almost to a man to every call that has so far been made. The militia, a part of which is now to be allowed to serve abroad, numbers 118,000, and the volunteers 22,000. Several volunteer regiments offered their services at the beginning of hostilities, but were not accepted. They will now be allowed to co-operate.

Then there are the colonial forces. Those of South Africa are already in the war. Australasia and Canada have small contingents in the field. The Australian colonies are pressing on the home government the offer of additional corps. From the Canadian people offers of service are pouring in to the government at Ottawa.

### LORD ROBERTS IN COMMAND.

The appointment of Lord Roberts to the command in Africa does not of necessity imply a rebuke to General Buller. It is not the British custom to set a commander aside for one failure. Obviously if there is to be any general direction of the war from one point it cannot be from the position occupied by General Buller. While he is operating in Natal, Methuen is conducting his campaign in the west, and Gatacre and French in the south, each according to his own lights. So far as general oversight has lately been exercised it must have been by Forester-Walker at Cape Town, as he is the only officer in communication with all the divisions. It becomes more important, now that large additional forces are proceeding, that some master mind shall be at Cape Town, or within touch of the main base, distributing the forces, forwarding supplies, taking care of the lines of communications, and, where he is sufficiently well informed, giving instructions. Apparently Lord Roberts is assigned to this position. General Kitchener, who takes the position of chief of staff, may possibly have duties assigned him at the front, and it may well be that Lord Roberts himself shall at a later date be found with one of the divisions. But his appointment at present

indicates that Lord Wolseley feels the need of more competent and coherent general direction over the whole field.

Lord Roberts has a record for brilliant service such as no other British officer holds. He would probably have been placed in command in Africa at the beginning if he had been a younger man. At sixty-eight Lord Roberts might well claim that he has earned the right to retire to the army command in Ireland which he has held. But "little Bobs" is the last man to plead old age in an emergency. He has given the life of his son already in this war, and would not hesitate long about giving his own.

### STILL AT IT.

Le Soleil of Quebec, "Organe du Parti Liberal," continues its reflections on the Manitoba election. Again it explains that Manitoba voted against the liberals "because of national antipathy." "It is useless to disguise the fact," says the Laurier organ, "it is even dangerous to do so. It is important that the liberals should know exactly why they were beaten in the Manitoba elections."

Then the organ explains: "They (the liberals) have been beaten because the premier of Canada is a French Canadian and a Catholic."

"True, Mr. Laurier has done nothing to give occasion for reproach on the part of our English compatriots."

"But they say if Canada had a Tupper or a Clark Wallace at its head instead of a Laurier, the aid given to England in the present crisis would have been more spontaneous and more effective."

"They say that the 10,000 young men who offered to go and fight for their mother land would have received arms and transportation if the colony had been under the direction of an Englishman."

"They say that if it had been a Tupper or a Clark Wallace who was premier, there would not have been seen an order-in-council offering a contingent-fenced in with a reservation somewhat wounding to England—that the act must not be regarded as a precedent, and that the sympathetic outcry would not be repeated in future."

The Soleil thinks that the "inopportune" declaration of Mr. Borden and others had something to do with the case. Then it goes on with its terse paragraphs:

"They (that is the Tories) say that it was Catholic and French Laurier who forced from the Greenway government the concessions given during the last three years to the French and the Catholics, and that these concessions would be continued if they returned in power."

"They say that the only way of making the French and Catholic element disappear was to bring them to an end."

"Behold, then, the true cause for our defeat last Thursday."

"Let no one charge us with exaggeration. We are in a position to judge from the facts as well as anyone, even the ministers."

"It is not notorious that all the Catholics of Manitoba ranged themselves on the side of the liberals and that all the Orangemen lined up against them without taking any account of the progressive politics of Greenway, without having even the shadow of a reproach to make against his government?"

"Not only have the only three French counties elected liberals, but it is admitted that we have held one seat in Winnipeg by the vote of the Irish Catholics and the French Canadians."

A day later Le Soleil made a furious attack on Hon. Thomas Chapais, one of the conservative leaders in the Quebec district. Mr. Chapais took a meeting in St. Roch this week, and one of the acts of this meeting was the adoption of a resolution congratulating Hugh John Macdonald on his victory in the Parti Liberal.

"Mr. Chapais," says the Soleil, "regards this act as a crime. His double-headed leader, proclaims the course of Mr. Chapais 'a veritable national humiliation.'"

"It declares that Mr. Macdonald went to the people declaring that he would not re-establish separate schools in Manitoba. Mr. Foster is quoted as having said that Mr. Greenway lost some votes by reason of his agreement with Sir Wilfrid as to concessions made to Roman Catholics contrary to his own law."

Then Le Soleil proceeds: "When Mr. Foster speaks of the introduction of dominion politics into the campaign against the exploitation of national prejudices by Mr. Clark Wallace against M. Laurier for not showing more zeal in giving aid to England."

"It is under these circumstances that the conservatives of Quebec and M. Chapais, a former minister and editor of a French and Catholic journal, push their zeal farther than the other conservative organizations in the dominion and telegraph their joy and satisfaction over the overthrow of a ministry blamed for making too much concessions to the Catholics."

Then Le Soleil proceeds to threaten "Continue, messieurs, to fight," it says, "the alliance you are concluding with the scoundrels Hugh John Macdonald and Clark Wallace. Your co-operation in their triumph will condemn you to remain out of power for a long time yet, at least in our district."

"You were only able to say two seats out of twenty-two (in the Quebec district) in the last struggle. Continue to expose yourselves thus on all occasions and we predict that you will not hold a single county in the whole district of Quebec."

All this sound and fury is because in a straight party fight the conservatives have defeated a provincial premier who had the support of the Laurier government, and because a leading Quebec conservative attended a meeting which congratulated the liberal conservative leader of Manitoba on his victory. It would be a pity to restrict the circulation of these

declarations, criticisms, appeals, and threats to the readers of Le Soleil. They seem to deserve wider circulation. Perhaps if the Sun were to discuss the question raised by the Laurier organ it might be accused of being a biased party or of religion. Therefore the observations of the "organs du Parti Liberal" are left to speak for themselves.

### THE DUTY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

(From Monday's Daily Sun.)

If the Canadian government is keeping the war office well informed of the fact that Canada is ready and more than willing to give further assistance, there is no occasion for complaint. An offer made in November 1900 was sufficient. The circumstances have changed since November. The change is so serious that the home government might naturally expect Canada to recognize it, rather than wait to be reminded of an offer made when there was less likelihood of acceptance. We have, however, a right to assume that the Canadian government is not standing on form in this matter. We have a right to suppose that the Canadian government has a full understanding of the feeling of the people of the Dominion, and of their ever increasing desire to be of service to the mother country.

It is to be regretted that the offer of the first contingent was not taken as a precedent. The time is opportune for forming Mr. Chamberlain that his offer must not be taken as a precedent. The time is opportune for forming Mr. Chamberlain that his offer must not be taken as a precedent.

The Canadian people will hear today with satisfaction that the war office has accepted a second contingent from this country for service in South Africa. They hear it without surprise, because the announcement was made two days ago that an additional corps had been accepted from Australia, and the home government does not discriminate. If the Australians were accepted first on this occasion, as they were before, it was because they were offered first or offered in a more hearty manner by the Australian governments. It has been the fortune of Canadians, through no fault of the people, that they have come in at the rear of both processions in their contribution of soldiers to this war. But the Canadian officers and men were the first to send forward their individual applications, and no Australian colony could have exceeded the Dominion in the enthusiasm and eagerness of the response to the call to arms.

As it was two months ago so it will be now. Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania have together less population than Canada, and their ordinary military establishment is in the aggregate only two-thirds as large as that of Canada. Australasia has already fifteen hundred soldiers in South Africa, while the island of Australia alone has an artillery force ready to send, and expects to despatch one thousand mounted men in the first week of January. But it will be found now as it was before that the Canadian people are not behindhand. The department of militia will today be flooded with applications as indeed it has been for many days past. Some cynical suggestion was made when the first contingent went out that the men would find the war ended when they got to Africa, and that the affair would be a picnic. It was not with such a feeling that the young men went off, and we are much mistaken if still greater enthusiasm is not shown within the next few days when the volunteers know that in offering their services they are offering their lives. The reverses to British arms have only deepened and intensified the loyalty of the Canadian people, as will be made manifest to Dr. Borden and to Mr. Tarte.

Since Canada cannot be first among the colonies it can be best. We have more material and as good as can be found in Australia. If we in Canada are seriously going about it to take something like our share of this campaign, the list should be open to efficient men, and no suitable men who desire to serve should be refused a chance, until a corps of two or three thousand men is up and the war office is prepared to accept that number.

The Royal Dragoons, comprising the permanent cavalry corps, numbers only about 175 men, but the cavalry regiments in the militia have a strength of 2,400, and the mounted police and ex-mounted police available would be not less than 500. The permanent artillery corps contains 430 men, and 3,800 is given the strength of the garrison and field artillery in the militia. If the minister of militia will give these men a chance, and accept a proportion of volunteers who are not now in the service, a strong and serviceable corps will be raised without requiring a man to go against his will.

We hope that Mr. Tarte will be so far as possible that there will be no official talk about reservations and provisions. We hope that the home government and all foreign governments can and will be given to understand that this is a precedent, and one that shall be followed in the future if the case requires it. And it may not be out of place to express the hope that no C. O. D. bargain is made in this case, and that men and horses are to be supplied without suggestion of payment by the mother country. The mother land has a load of her own almost too great to be borne. This Dominion is able and willing to do something to lighten it. If it is the light necessary to summon parliament, let parliament be summoned.

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moned. But this is not a time to drive bargains with Great Britain or to claim political privileges in return for patriotic service.

### TROOPS IN AFRICA.

On Monday the Sun expressed the opinion that the British had not as yet more than 50,000 men in the line of battle against the Boers. This estimate is supported by the London Telegraph of December 4, which gives the following statement of the strength of the army in Africa or ordered thither:

The army in South Africa is growing daily as the transports arrive at the various ports, and by the New Year the regular and auxiliary forces will number 115,000 men, including the army service corps, the medical and transport corps, and the mounted police.	115,000
South African garrison on the out-break of war.	25,000
Troops since arrived.	35,000
Army service corps (arrived Oct. 26).	15,000
Medical and transport corps.	5,000
Mounted police.	1,500
Local forces.	15,000
New recruits.	15,000
To sail—Half of Sir C. Warren's division.	5,000
To sail—South division at Aldershot.	10,000
Casualties during the war and prisoners.	5,000
Reserves.	117,500

Deducting the 10,000 men of the fifth division, some of whom are now at sea, and the 5,000 of Sir C. Warren's corps, who are already arriving in Africa, there would be left 102,500 men. The losses reported amount to over 7,000 men, and we may safely say that about 95,000 men, including local forces, the army service corps, and the mounted police, are at the bases and on the lines of communication. It would appear that something like 60,000 are at the front, including the beleaguered garrison. These latter may be regarded as on the fighting line, since they require an equal number of Boers to watch them. Of the 30,000 Gen. Buller and Gen. Clery together must have at Estcourt and points north between 25,000 and 30,000 men, while 9,000 are shut up in Ladysmith. Probably not less than 15,000 men have moved north of De laarsburg, Methuen, or after him, but of these nearly 2,000 have been put out of action. The despatches do not give much information as to the numbers in action, but there are certainly not less than 12,000 combatants on what may be called the fighting line, and at Orange River, Gen. Gatacre's brigade is still probably 6,000 strong, and General French with his reinforcement has perhaps 4,000 men. There are 2,000 men besieged in Kimberley, and 1,000 in Mafeking. Among the local forces is one of 1,000 men in Rhodesia moving south to the relief of Mafeking. According to the above calculation the forces in northern Rhodesia, Natal, and the western division, including the garrisons, 15,000 and those in the southern or central divisions 10,000. Probably there are 10,000 distributed from Estcourt to the Cape, and 1,000 at Cape Town. Down and between that base and the Orange River, the bases at East London and Port Elizabeth, with the lines between these ports and the positions of Gatacre and French are strongly occupied, so that including local forces, and those advancing, some 5,000 would be accounted for at these points. The non-combatants and waiting local forces would add 15,000 men to the number to be given.

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## BOTS.

Did you ever know of a horse die of the bots? Of course you have, hundreds of them, then why run the risk of losing yours in the same way. Be advised. Get a package of MANCHESTER'S TONIC POWDER. It will clear every bot and worm from his system, purify his blood, digest his food, and make him a new creature. These are straight facts. We are qualified VETERINARY SURGEONS and know that it is so. Ask your dealer for them, if he is out send 25cts. to J. W. Manchester & Co. St. John, N. B. for package. Do not let your dealer impose on you with an inferior powder. Ours are the only Horse Medicines put up for sale by VETERINARY SURGEONS in these provinces. Demand the Best. Take no other. Wholesale by T. B. Barker & Son and S. McDiarmid, St. John, N. B.

J. W. Manchester, veterinary surgeon has returned from Montreal. Those wishing to consult him inquire at Ham's stable, Union street, St. John, N. B.

## CANADIAN NEWS.

### WALTER SHANLEY.

The Eminent Canadian Engineer, Died on Sunday.

He Built the Hoosac Tunnel, Massachusetts, After the Work Had Been Abandoned By American Engineers.

MONTREAL, Dec. 17.—Walter Shanley, the well known civil engineer, died early this morning in St. Lawrence hall, where he resided when in town. He was in his 81st year.

(Walter Shanley was one of Canada's most distinguished civil engineers. He was the fifth son of James Shanley, a member of the Irish bar, who settled in Middlesex Co., Ontario, in 1838. As a young man, Walter Shanley was employed by the government of Canada on the Beaudouin and Welland canals. He was engaged in railway work in the United States from 1858 to 1860, was engineer of the Ottawa and Prescott railway 1861-62, engineer of the western division of the Grand Trunk 1863 to 1869, and general manager of the Grand Trunk system from 1869 to 1882. His most important work as a railway engineer is the Hoosac Mountain tunnel, Massachusetts, which he successfully constructed, in conjunction with his brother, the late Francis Shanley, 1869 to 1875, after the undertaking had been practically abandoned by United States engineers. Shanley was widely employed as a consulting engineer. He was the old parliament of Canada from 1883 till confederation, and was the contemporary, colleague and friend of