

London Advertiser.

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 Managing Director and Editor, John Cameron
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The War.

Up to the present hour (noon) little has been heard from Gen. Roberts, who is presumed to be facing Cronje's forces somewhere near the Free State capital. It appears Buller has been unable to prevent large bodies of the enemy from leaving the vicinity of Ladysmith to strengthen the army that is opposing Lord Roberts' advance, and it would seem to be a race now as to which commander shall get the first and most reinforcements. In the meantime the early relief of Ladysmith is probable. Lord Roberts' silence is interpreted as meaning that he is engaged in some serious operation not yet completed.

Magna Charta for the Colored Man as Well as for the White.

One of the things that must be seen to, if prosper and peace are to follow the present war in South Africa, is that fair play be done to the native population, who in the vast regions south of the Zambesi, now outnumber the whites by five to one, and to all appearances are likely to continue by far the more numerous.

Under Boer rule, it has been effectively demonstrated, the colored races have been shamefully treated. If the white Uitlanders have been denied the ordinary rights of citizenship, the Kaffir and other native tribes, as well as the imported coolies, have been treated as if they had no rights whatsoever. As Mr. Fox Bourne, secretary of the Aborigines Protection Society, has pointed out, it is laid down as a fundamental principle in the Transvaal Grundwet (constitution) that there is no equality of rights between white men and blacks.

In theory, if not in practice, the Boers regard the natives, all of whom they contemptuously call Kaffirs, whatever their tribal differences, pretty much as the ancient Jews, whom in other particulars they somewhat resemble, regarded the Philistines and others whom they expelled from Palestine, or used as hewers of wood and drawers of water, but with added prejudice due to the difference of color. So it was, says Mr. Fox Bourne, in the case of the early Dutch settlers, and so it is today, with a few exceptions, due mainly to the influence of the missionaries, whose work among the natives has from the first been objected to and hindered. It is only by social sunderance, and not by law, the marriage of natives with Christian rites is recognized, and it carries with it none of the conditions as regards inheritance and the like which are prescribed by the Dutch Roman code in force with white men.

As a matter of fact, natives have no legal rights whatever. If they are in the service of humane masters, mindful of their own interests and moral obligations, they may be properly lodged and fed, not overworked and fairly recompensed; but from the cruelties of a brutal master, perpetrated in cold blood or a drunken fit, the native practically has no redress. The right of free access to the courts of law, though stipulated in the convention between the British and the Transvaal in 1881, has practically been denied the natives. The tribunal set up to try accusations brought by natives has been a mere mockery, and no one can plead for a native until the consent of the Transvaal Government has first been obtained. The squatters' law of 1895 is a specimen tyrannical measure. It enacts:

"With the exception of the localities already allowed by the Government, natives must not live together on private property to a greater extent than five families, and must be under the charge of white men to be responsible for them. Each white proprietor may have five natives for each of his farms, but, if he has more than five farms, must not have more than twenty-five on one particular farm. Each head of a colored family living on a farm without permission to live there shall be regarded as a vagrant and be liable to a fine not exceeding £10, or to imprisonment not exceeding one month, and on repetition of the offense shall be liable to not more than ten lashes. Natives living on a farm must not leave without giving three months' notice to the proprietor. Similar notice shall be given by a proprietor to a native whom he no longer wishes to retain; but the native shall, in such circumstances, have the right to reap his growing grain."

There are ordinary and special gold field laws. Under these natives have to pay each month various sums of money for permission to be off their reserve. A native seeking work, and even after he obtains it, must not only pay this impost, but must have a badge buckled to a strong leather strap, and worn on his left arm above the elbow, so that it can always be distinctly visible. He must pay a monthly fee for the renewal of this pass, and, if found without one, after a heavy fine for the first offense, he is to be given "lashes according to the opinion of the court."

The natives may not be very fond of work, and they may have the disposition to roam, as did their forefathers, but such treatment is as bad as slavery could well be. When the British become the masters of the situation in the two republics, they must see to it that the threats of gold mining magnates to continue the system, in all its iniquity, are not carried out.

The British are at war with the Boers to secure equal rights for white men. Surely care will be taken that the colored man, who was there be-

fore the white man set foot on the land, is treated humanely. There should be a Magna Charta for the colored races in South Africa, and it would be well to give heed to the counsel of those who take the ground that the African natives should have the right to live their own lives, in their own way, provided they give no just grounds of offense to their white neighbors. A good beginning has been made in this regard by the British in Basutoland, and it might well be extended to the whole of South Africa.

The Isthmian Canal.

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican does not think there would be any advantage to the United States in having the Nicaraguan Canal "all American." It thus gives the other view:

"It is not difficult to show that the scheme of making the Isthmian canal a part of the war power of the United States is antagonistic to the rights of neutrals, and, therefore, must be regarded as rightly offensive to all other nations. In case of war between the United States and Great Britain, or Germany, the canal could not be closed by the United States to its enemy's ships, or fortified against that enemy, on the theory of exclusive control of a military engine, without giving to the enemy the belligerent right to attack the waterway. A canal managed on the 'all American' principle would be a fair target for any power at war with us. Hence, in the struggle over the fortified canal, an enemy's fleet might bombard and destroy its shore defenses, while land battles might take place to secure control of the waterway in the interior. It would inevitably happen that the canal would be closed to neutral commerce by this warfare at its approaches or over its route inland. It would be almost miraculous if in this struggle the work were not blown up, or so obstructed that transportation through it would be impossible until after the war had ended. No such situation could be tolerated with equanimity by the commercial powers that might be neutral in the war. The great commercial importance of the canal to Germany, France and Great Britain cannot be denied; nor can it be divested of vast significance to the commerce of the world. The superior importance of the canal to the United States may be insisted upon as much as you please, yet, in spite of that, an Isthmian canal cannot be divorced from immense international interests. To make the canal, therefore, a national military work, that would probably render it the scene of actual hostilities whenever the United States went to war with a great power, would so menace neutral rights and interests that America would have the whole world against her. In every war the United States might wage against a strong naval power, the interruption of neutral traffic at the canal would afford an excuse, if not good reason, for foreign intervention, and it is needless to say that such intervention would not be of a character friendly to the United States. Neutral rights will tend to increase, rather than diminish, in the years to come, because the currents of progress are in that direction. The world's demand for an untrammelled commerce will be stronger 50 years hence than it is today. It is idle for America to think of turning back the hands of the clock. A neutral canal, as free and unmenaced in war as in peace, is the only possible consummation of the Isthmian problem."

We may have to pay more for our jewelry now. A brass trust has been formed.

Once he gets a good start no one can overtake a fleeing Boer. But some do not get a good start.

One of the saddest features of the present war is some of the so-called music that is being written about it.

A New York millionaire valued his life at five dollars last week. He was saved from instant death by a gripman, and gave him that handsome sum as a reward.

It is a good sign to see some of our Opposition contemporaries condemning long speeches. Long and unnecessary speeches by Opposition orators in last session of Parliament cost the country many thousands of dollars.

With a general election approaching, one is not surprised that the average M. P. is strenuously opposed to the tactics of the Parliamentary bores who insist on talking at great length every occasion that offers.

The St. John Monitor, a weekly Catholic paper, has issued a splendid special illustrated number in connection with the consecration of Bishops Magee and Barry at that city. The management are to be congratulated on their enterprise.

The Ross Government is beginning its life under most favorable auspices. All but hide-bound political opponents are welcoming its progressive measures for the advancement of Ontario as in the highest sense patriotic and worthy of the warmest commendation.

There are now nine beet sugar factories in the State of Michigan. During last month they turned out 7,431,108 pounds of sugar, and received \$5,336 tons of beets. The total output of the season up to the first of this month was 80,106,223 pounds of sugar, and the quantity of beets received was 210,971 tons. The State at one time paid a bounty for the production of this sugar, but it withdrew it. If it

had been still paying it, the sum of \$300,000 would have been necessary for this season's output.

That returning officer at Regina who gave his casting vote in favor of Mr. Davin, M. P., has much to be responsible for. Mr. Davin consumes more time in Parliament than any other man, Sir Charles Tupper alone excepted, and without any reasonable return for his prattle.

Of course, we have trained military men in Canada who are capable of taking command of the military force and keeping it in a state of efficiency. If not, what have our military colleges and the opportunities to learn afforded at Woolwich and other British seats of military learning been good for?

Mr. McMillan, M. P., proposes that, under law, eggs shall be sold by weight. If the housewife were always guaranteed that eggs she paid for as "fresh" were really so she would not trouble about the weight. What is needed is some law, or regulation, that will enable one to get fresh eggs when such are paid for.

FOR THE HONOR OF THE EMPIRE

Canada Appreciates the Sacrifices Made by Her Brave Soldier Sons.

Who Fell in Sunday's Fight at Modder River.

Message of Sympathy Cabled to Col. Otter by Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Touching References to the Sad News From the Seat of War by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition—Message From the Queen—in the Commons.

Ottawa, Feb. 21.—Before the house proceeded with the regular business today the all-absorbing topic of the Canadian casualties was introduced by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The flag in the main tower of the parliament building half-masted, symbolized the nation's sorrow for her brave sons who fell at Modder River on Sunday. It was indicative, too, of the feeling that pervaded the house.

The following is a copy of the cable message sent by the premier to Col. Otter:

"Ottawa, Feb. 21.—I desire to convey to you and your men the grateful thanks of the government and parliament of the Dominion for the gallant display of the troops of Canada who have bravely appreciated the sacrifices made by her sons for the honor of the empire. The wounded have our sympathy and our prayers for speedy recovery. Those who have given up their lives will ever be held in remembrance by a grateful people. (Signed) WILFRID LAURIER."

As Sir Wilfrid Laurier rose to speak the chamber lagged into profound silence. "It may not be out of place," said the premier, "that we should interrupt at this moment, the regular course of business to give a moment's attention to the news from Africa today. The news we have received is of a character at once to cheer and to sadden our hearts. It is cheering in this respect that it brings the announcement that our Canadian troops in the field have received their baptism of fire, and have gone through the ordeal creditable to themselves and to their country. (Cheers.) The telegraphic message gives us details whatever of the engagement; still we know by the number of casualties that have taken place that our men have died at their posts, and that their courage has been equal to the news we expected of them. But this is the saddest part of it. 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