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The New Contingent. In the enrolment of the new Canadian force of 2000 men for South Africa the same course it is said will be pursued in regard to raising, outfitting and transporting the contingent as in the case of the 2nd Mounted Rifles which has already given so excellent an account of itself at the front. The British Government will provide arms and ammunition for the men and transport them to Cape Town or Durban whichever may be decided upon as the port of disembarkation. The force, it is now announced, will be mobilized at Halifax and not at Quebec as at first reported and transports will be fitted up and supplied with stores by the Imperial authorities. There will be four regiments of 500 men in each, and as fast as each is mobilized it will be sent to the front. At least a thousand men, it is said, will be recruited west of Toronto, mainly from Manitoba, the Territories and British Columbia. The remaining thousand will be called east of Toronto. Probably 500 will be taken from Ontario, and the balance from Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. There will likely be more recruiting points in the west than heretofore, and the western members of Parliament will be asked to suggest a few new places where men can be obtained. Some new recruiting centres will also in all likelihood be established in Ontario. It is expected that the first regiment will be in readiness to leave in a month's time. The two other regiments will follow at intervals of a fortnight.

A new Railway Scheme. The New Brunswick Legislature has agreed to Bills in connection with a project to extend the Canada Atlantic Railway to the Atlantic seaboard, making St. John the point of export for freight and Louisburg the terminus for a fast passenger service. The scheme is said to be in the hands of a New York syndicate including American capitalists of wide reputation, at the head of whom is Dr. Seward Webb who is largely interested in the Vanderbilt system. It is said that the syndicate has large western interests and is seeking an outlet to the Atlantic for an extensive freight and passenger service. According to published reports as to the working out of the scheme, it is proposed to enter New Brunswick at the Quebec border at or near the Schoodic lakes, connecting with their western system and crossing the province via Temiscouata, Edmunston and the St. John valley, acquiring for this purpose the charter now held by the St. John Valley Railway Company. At Fredericton the river will be crossed and the road will traverse the route already surveyed for the New Brunswick Coal & Railway Company, from Fredericton to Chipman. The big concern will probably absorb the latter company. From Chipman the line will probably be extended to St. John by the most direct route, as it is intended to make that port the port for freight shipments, and the western grain crop will furnish a goodly portion of that freight. The main line will run across the country from Chipman to Nova Scotia, thence to Cape Breton, where charters of sections of the road, which have been promised provincial subsidies are acquired, the company will probably ask a continuation of these subsidies. They have offered to deposit securities to the amount of \$100,000 with the government as an evidence of good faith. The work of construction is to be commenced in three years and its completion is expected within six years. The capital stock of the company is to be \$20,000 per mile of the mileage of railway which the company may acquire.

Cecil Rhodes Educational Scheme. The estate of the late Cecil Rhodes is valued at \$25,000,000. By the provisions of Mr. Rhodes will, a considerable part of this fortune is to be de-

voted to a scheme of Imperial, or perhaps it should rather be called international, education. It is understood that there is provision for some three hundred Oxford scholarships which will be open not only to the English speaking Colonies—Canada, Australia and South Africa, but also to the United States and Germany. The value attaching to each scholarship is said to be ample for the maintenance of a student during the full course at Oxford. Mr. Rhodes' scheme appears to receive the general and cordial endorsement of educationists in this country. An exception to this, however, is Dr. G. M. Grant of Kingston, who has never been an admirer of Cecil Rhodes and who does look for any great results from the Oxford scholarships. Mr. Rhodes' admirers will of course be predisposed to take a more favorable view of the matter, and many even of those who regard some of the deceased millionaire's doings as of a nature which the largest charity could hardly designate by so mild a term as "mistakes" or "errors of judgment," will be willing to admit the largeness and nobility of his ulterior aims and to recognize in this grand scheme of education, something that was characteristic of the man at his best. A gentleman who is spoken of as one of Mr. Rhodes' most intimate associates is quoted as saying:

He drew up his will in the same spirit in which he approached all great undertakings. In his most important tasks he merely sketched the outlines and left us to fill in the details. To his trustees are given plenary power. In the matter of the scholarships Mr. Rhodes saw that any attempt to lay down too rigidly the lines might result in harm; so, beyond endeavoring to meet the legal requirements, he tried to leave the fulfilment of his plans to those with whom, during his lifetime, he had frequently discussed them.

Regarding the American bequests, the same authority said:

In offering Americans and Germans inducements to go to Oxford, Mr. Rhodes had a dual aim. First, putting the youth of England in intimate touch with what he termed the two most progressive nations of the world, so that they might be broadened and spurred to more strenuous efforts; second, bringing the best specimens of Americans and Germans on such terms with the English people and customs that they might become missionaries of a better international understanding.

The executors of the will are Lord Rosebery, Earl Grey, Lord Milner, Alfred Beit, Dr. Jameson, L. L. Micell and B. A. Hawksley, to whom he bequeathed the residue of his estate. They will divide about £1,000,000 or £1,500,000 between them. According to the terms of this legacy, the amount is to be divided during their lifetime, but as each legatee dies his share goes to a common fund, until the surviving legatee becomes its sole owner. Hence, one of the executors, the majority of whom are already enormously wealthy, will one day inherit what will then have probably accumulated into nearly £2,000,000. To what use this money is to be put finally, does not appear. The disposition of it would seem to rest with the latest surviving executor.

Rumors of Peace. There have been within the past week rumors of the probability of a satisfactory outcome of negotiations for peace between the British authorities and the Boer leaders in South Africa. A London paper published on Friday morning a despatch from Pretoria declaring that the Boer leaders had accepted the British terms of peace which had been arranged and that their acceptance had been cabled to the Boer agents in Europe. Similar reports also were in circulation in other quarters. It is known, through a statement of Mr. Brodrick, Under Secretary for War, in the House of Commons that Schalk Burger, Reitz, Lucas Meyer and Jacobs have been joined at Klerksdorp by General Botha and that Steyn, DeWet, Delarey and three other members of the late Orange Free State Government had arrived at the same place. A despatch from Pretoria of

April 9 states that ex-President Steyn is suffering from severe ophthalmia and is threatened with total blindness. The same despatch says that the British authorities are making preparation for a great series of "drives" on the arrival of reinforcements, that the general outlook for the Boers is considered to be most disheartening and that the majority of them are believed to be only awaiting a promise that they will not be banished to come in and surrender.

Later despatches indicate that a conference between Lords Kitchener and Milner and the Boer leaders in South Africa is in progress in Pretoria. A Pretoria despatch of March 12 states that Acting President Schalk Burger, Generals Louis Botha, Lucas Meyer, Delarey and DeWet and Mr. Steyn arrived there that morning from Klerksdorp. There can be no doubt but that their mission there is to discuss terms of peace, and signs of increased activity in the Colonial and other Government departments in London on Sunday support the belief that a conference having reference to peace is taking place in Pretoria. Beyond this no information is at present available and it would be idle to attempt to forecast the outcome of the negotiations.

Mr. Kruger as He Is. The London correspondent of the *New York Tribune* has been lately studying the Boer problem, in the Netherlands. In a despatch from Utrecht, dated April 11, Mr. Ford speaks of ex-President Kruger and his present condition as follows:

Dutch hero-worship has become an unreasoning fetish, so far as Mr. Kruger is concerned. He is idealized as a martyr to British oppression and persecution, and an unique and picturesque figure, reading the Bible with sublime faith, and working with serenity of purpose for the deliverance of the Boer republics. There is no decline in his popularity, although he lives in seclusion and is seldom seen outside his villa in the small factory town. He is surrounded by a swarm of relatives and Boer exiles, sees few visitors, and is more phlegmatic and taciturn than ever. He is unmanageable in money matters, and so deliberate and cautious in expressing an opinion and judgment respecting South African affairs that he is seldom consulted by Leyds, Wolmarans, Fischer and the other Boer leaders. Dr. Leyds is received as the diplomatic representative of the South African Republic, and is allowed to display his full uniform on State occasions. Mr. Kruger is a private citizen living in exile, and not encouraged to visit the capital or appear in public. Yet he is revered throughout the Netherlands as a hero and a martyr. Mr. Kruger is unmistakably ageing, as his followers admit. His heart action is better than it was, and his general health has improved during his residence near Utrecht, but his mind has grown dull and torpid, his grim humor has disappeared, and the force of his character has sensibly abated. He remains the central figure of the group of Boer refugees because his personality is still unrivalled, but his associates make no secret of the fact that it is difficult to squeeze money out of him, and that his leadership is nominal and ineffective. Indecision is now described as his leading trait. He is unable to make up his mind when called upon to settle any point of Boer policy.

—A method too frequently neglected, says the American Medicine, whereby temperance may be encouraged, is the regulation of the habits of employes in reference to liquor drinking. If the drinking habit is bad, it must have bad effects, and these must serve to make the workman less capable and trustworthy. A suggestion of the method may be gathered from the fact that the French governor director of railroads has written to the different societies opposing the use of alcohol that all the government roads have agreed to the following: First, to discharge all employes who persist in using spirits and wine while on duty; second, all persons who continue to drink shall be dropped from the pension rolls of the company, and will not participate in the endowment funds in case of accident. All restaurants on the roads are forbidden to sell spirits to the workmen. In our own country we find that rule 207 of the Union Pacific, prohibiting employes from patronizing saloons, has, it is said, ruined twenty-five saloon-keepers, who will close their doors on the first of the month, when their licenses expire. The rule has been in force for four months and special agents have reported many violations. Offenders have been dropped in every instance, without regard to previous standing. Only the better class of saloons have survived the effects of the order. Two of these are going to move. Three gambling houses have closed.