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Hon. Mr. Foster
on the Budget.

The debate on the budget was resumed on Tuesday, when the speech of the Finance Minister and the financial policy and position of the Government were subjected to an able criticism at the hands of the Hon. G. E. Foster. Mr. Foster admitted that the country was in a prosperous condition, but of course declined to admit that the prosperity was due to the superior wisdom or administrative ability of the party in power, whom he charged with extravagant expenditure and with failing to carry out the policy they had propounded when in opposition, and redeem the pledges they had then given to the country. The Finance Minister had not told the House, he said, that to bring the revenue up to the \$50,000,000 mark would involve an addition of \$7,000,000 to the taxation of Canada. The Liberals in opposition had promised economy but in power they had increased the expenditure. Mr. Foster argued that under Conservative rule there had been from 1892 to 1896 a smaller average expenditure than from 1887 to 1892, and a much smaller average expenditure than from 1896 to 1899 under the present administration. He characterized Mr. Fielding's comparison of the debt additions of the two Governments as unfair, claiming that in the eighteen years of Conservative rule they spent \$65,000,000 on the C. P. R., while from 1896 to 1899 the Liberals had only spent \$23,000. The Conservatives had spent millions on the I. C. R., the canals and the Northwest rebellion, therefore, he argued, the two periods were utterly dissimilar and could not be fairly compared. Dealing with the question of surpluses, he argued that Mr. Fielding was also unfair in comparing a period of depression between 1893 and 1895 with the present time of business buoyancy. He claimed that the reduction of the duties on sugar, molasses and glass made by the Conservatives gave more relief to the taxpayers than all the tariff changes of the Liberal Government. Mr. Foster took up the departmental expenditures and claimed that except in four or five departments there has been increases. He argued from figures he presented that from 1890 to 1895 the volume of taxation had been reduced \$6,000,000, while from 1896 to 1899 it had been increased \$7,000,000. The total revenue in the former period had been reduced over \$5,000,000, while in the latter period it had been increased over \$10,000,000. He went on to deal with the rate of taxation per head, claiming that it had been increased to the extent of \$1.16 per head since 1896. He admitted that the country was prosperous, but he claimed that the course of trade had not been truly stated. The increase in trade, though substantial and a subject for congratulation, was not so much as Mr. Fielding would seem to claim an increase in the volume of trade, but rather an increase in valuation. In 1899 the prices were 17 per cent. higher than in 1895, and Mr. Foster argued that to make the comparison fair 17 per cent.—equal to \$34,000,000—should be added to the trade figures of 1895. This would reduce the increase in the volume of trade to about \$30,000,000, a magnificent sum indeed, and due, Mr. Foster claimed, to the success of the policy introduced by the Conservatives. The small differential in favor of Great Britain in the trade figures, Mr. Foster claimed, was offset by the longer distance as compared with the United States and the longer time it took to fill orders. The percentage of increase of imports from Great Britain under the preferential tariff was less than from the United States and almost the lowest on the list. He claimed that it was the same with regard to exports to Great Britain as compared with other countries. Mr. Foster's speech in turn was subjected to an able criticism at the hands of Sir Richard Cartwright, and Sir Richard was followed by Sir Charles Tupper.

General Joubert Dead. The Boers have suffered a heavy loss in the death of their Commander-in-Chief, General Joubert, whose death occurred at Pretoria on Tuesday night, the 27th ult. His death is said to have resulted from peritonitis. General Petrus Jacobus Joubert was born early in 1832, and had therefore entered upon his 69th year. He was, it is said, a descendant from an old Huguenot family. He was born in Cape Colony, but at an early age removed with his parents into the Orange Free State. He had but little schooling, but his superior abilities enabled him to acquire by reading considerable knowledge of history and the languages. Soon after the acquisition of Natal by the British, Joubert became a burgher of the South African Republic. Endowed with abundance of natural courage, he possessed in a very large measure also the qualities necessary to successful leadership. His fame as a fighter long ago made him a terror among the native tribes. He commanded the Boer force in the engagement which resulted so disastrously to the British at Majuba Hill in 1881. His ability as a military leader in the line of a defensive warfare has been abundantly demonstrated both in the present and in previous wars. As an organizer he evidently possessed large ability, and the military system and armament of the Transvaal which has so surprised the British people and the world by their strength and efficiency was due largely to his genius. General Joubert was elected Vice President of the Transvaal in 1896, and was at one time a close rival of Paul Kruger as a candidate for the presidency. He was a man of broader thought and culture than Kruger, and though he was bitter against the British and fully prepared to fight out the war to a conclusion, he was probably far less disposed than Kruger to prolong a bitter strife after it had become hopeless. The London newspapers for the most part refer to the dead leader in terms of great respect and appreciation. General Sir George White had spoken of General Joubert before his death as an able soldier and a gentleman. It is believed that the chief command of the Boer forces will now devolve on General Botha. A pleasing incident in connection with the funeral of the great Boer general was the contribution of a wreath of flowers by the imprisoned British officers at Pretoria. The Queen has instructed Lord Roberts to communicate to the widow of General Joubert an expression of sympathy and to assure her of Her Majesty's admiration of the brave and magnanimous character of the deceased general.

Mosquitoes
and Malaria.

The idea has been put forward that the mosquito is responsible for the spread of malaria. It is said to have been shown that the germ or parasite found in the blood of persons afflicted with malarial disease also lives in some mosquitoes, and the bite of such a mosquito is sometimes followed by an attack of malarial fever. Admitting the facts claimed it does not of course follow that malarial infection is communicated by the mosquito, much less that it is communicated only by that means. Certain experiments are to be undertaken during the coming season with a view to determining this and other points in connection with the general question whether and to what extent the mosquito is concerned in the propagation of malarial disease. "One elaborate experiment which has just been planned," says the New York Tribune, "is to be undertaken in that portion of Europe most afflicted with malaria, the marshes of the Roman Campagna. The London School of Tropical Diseases and the British Colonial Office will co-operate in the enterprise, the former supplying a commission of medical experts and the latter the money required. Two skilled observers and their servants are to spend their nights in a specially constructed hut from May

to October. Inasmuch as the kind of mosquito that is believed to be responsible for the dissemination of the infection bites only at night, the conditions of the test will be enforced only from an hour before sunset to an hour after sunrise. The four persons will stay inside the hut during these hours, but will be protected by gauze doors, window screens and other provisions for excluding mosquitoes. If, in spite of all these precautions, one of the four persons should be attacked with malarial fever, the fact would prove that some other agency than the insect also has a share in the dissemination of the disease. If, on the contrary, absolute immunity is enjoyed, it will be a fair inference that the mosquito alone is to blame, and that safety in what are known to be infected regions is to be secured by suitable netting." Other experiments are to be conducted with a view to determining, if possible, how the mosquito acquires the malarial germ, whether these germs originate in the insect independently or whether it acquires the germs from persons whom it bites and then transmits them to others.

The Canadian
Sick and Wounded.

The sick and wounded men of the Canadian contingent in South Africa are understood to be principally at Kimberley, though some are at Wynberg, near Capetown, and a few have been taken to England. Section A of the Canadian branch of the Red Cross Society is at Kimberley, and is reported to be doing splendid work. Lieut.-Colonel G. Sterling Ryerson, who is in charge of the Canadian Red Cross service, arrived in South Africa with the second contingent. He went immediately to the front, arriving on the day of the battle of Paardeburg, in which the Canadian regiment suffered so severely. A Kimberley correspondent of a London newspaper states that Colonel Ryerson has made over 200 cots to the DeBeers hospital, which have been distributed to the extemporized hospitals, and has brought clothing, sheets, pyjamas, blankets, fruit and other necessaries. In the Masonic Temple there are 90 cots, filled with Canadian sick, principally enteric patients. The principal medical officer of the 1st Division, it is said, has expressed his great satisfaction at what the Canadian society has been able to do. More definite statements as to the whereabouts and the condition of the Canadian soldiers wounded at Paardeburg—so eagerly awaited by their friends—should now be at hand. The correspondent alluded to above mentions, as one of the most interesting cases in the Canadian hospital at Kimberley, that of Lance-Corporal Octampart of Montreal, who becoming sick while marching, fell out and lost consciousness. When he recovered his senses he found himself alone, and was soon after taken prisoner by three Boers, who took away his coat and shoes. He was guarded by one or other of them all day, but early next morning managed to escape and finally crawled into Kimberley, having been three days and a half without food or water, and having hurt his back by falling into a hole. He is now in a fair way to recover.

The War.

During the week Lord Roberts has advanced his outposts northward from Bloemfontein, some twenty miles to the vicinity of Brandfort. This involved an engagement in which the Boers were driven from a number of kopjes after a spirited resistance. The casualties on the British side were six officers and about 150 men killed or wounded. Some 3,000 cavalry and 8,000 infantry were employed against the Boers. The object of the movement, as Lord Roberts explains, was to check the activity of the enemy on the British front and to protect from the hostile action of the Boers the Free State burghers who had surrendered on the terms of Lord Roberts.

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