

Paris Exposition Exhibit.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—A Paris special says there is a big deficit in the exposition expenses, which the government will have to provide for.



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THE MORNING GUARDIAN

THURSDAY Dec. 20, 1900.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA

It is now nearly fourteen months since the Canadian troops sailed for South Africa, somewhat afraid that the war would be over before their arrival on the scene. They were in time, however, to share in the most signal events of the war in many toilsome marches, hard-fought battles and unexpected privations. Many of them have returned to their homes after completing a year of active service and others are on their homeward way. And yet the war is not over. Since our men left the scene, and Lord Roberts took his farewell of the troops there has been a sudden and strong revival of Boer activity and the enemy has met with some successes, so that the year is drawing to a close, somewhat as last year did, with a feeling of grave apprehension and concern in the British mind.

The points of greatest Boer activity are widely separated. Nootgedacht, where Gen. Clements recently met with disaster and was forced to retreat, narrowly escaping the capture of his entire force, is situated in the hills, 22 miles north west of Pretoria. His assailant was Delarey, who appears to have 2,500 men according to Lord Kitchener. He has at least a considerable and increasing force of veteran fighters under him. In fact all the Boer forces now in the field are veterans, and nearly all of them possessed of a reckless and irreconcilable spirit. The weaker and reconcilable element have given up the fight and returned to their homes, or have been made prisoners. This is true alike of those fighting under Delarey, Botha and Dewet, three remarkable leaders who are apparently more active and resourceful than their old chief, Joubert, who died early in the war, or his successor, Cronje, who was made prisoner at Paardeberg and is now at St. Helena.

Another point of Boer activity and of considerable concern to Lord Kitchener is at Koomatiport, on the Portuguese border, where Botha is actively threatening the British position, and the railway connection between that point and Pretoria. One account states that the Boer force in this region is 1,500 and another report 2,500 strong. But most attention has been attracted by the running fight with Dewet, which has been going on for months past, and in which he has worked his way southward from the Transvaal border, and mainly parallel with the railway through the entire length of what was the Orange

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Free State to the border of Cape Colony. Various British forces, led by able commanders have been engaged. Kitchener himself, before the withdrawal of Lord Roberts, took a hand in the active operations against Dewet, when he was in the northern part of the Free State months ago. More recently Gen. Knox and others have been engaged in the active fighting. Again and again the wily Boer leader has been surrounded and hopes of his speedy capture have been given out, but he has so far always managed to escape—the last time with heavy losses. His object was the invasion of Cape Colony. He was first turned back by Gen. Knox, but since we are told that a Boer force, apparently a part of Dewet's, has actually crossed into the Colony at Aliwal North, and driven back General Brabant, a veteran fighter. All this is serious enough.

A news item now going the rounds furnishes a possible explanation of the recent Boer activity. It is said that when they were driven out of Cape Colony a year ago they buried or concealed a portion of their arms and stores, and that the same thing was repeated when they abandoned Pretoria, and a third time, near the Portuguese border when Kruger and his party fled to Lorenzo Marques. The theory is that these concealed stores are now being utilised, and to get them the Boer commanders must revisit the places where they were concealed.

The northern part of Cape Colony, into which the Boer commandos have crossed is almost wholly populated by Dutch people, who are disaffected toward British rule. This gives a grave significance to the latest movement of the enemy.

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The Perfume Man, Sunnyside.

THE NEW LEGISLATURE.

As is indicated by the figures printed elsewhere in this issue the special votes which were counted yesterday have the effect of giving majorities to Hon. George Forbes in the Third District of Kings, and to Mr. Bruce in the Fourth District of Kings. These changes will increase the already large Liberal majority in the new House, where the relative numbers will apparently be, Liberals 23; Conservatives 7.

A remarkable fact about the new Legislature is that 13 members on the Ministerial side out of 23 are new members. One or more of the number, including Hon. Benjamin Rogers of Alberton, had previously served in the Legislature. It were not in that body at the time of the recent dissolution. Of the seven members of the Opposition no 7 returned three are new men, so that of the 30 members elected 13 are new men. The extent of the change in that regard is quite remarkable.

Although the Opposition has been very roughly handled and a number of its prominent and active candidates have suffered defeat, its strength and weight will be relatively good in proportion to its numbers. Mr. Gordon, the veteran leader, who is respected by all, has long enjoyed a precedence in the House as the one member whose speeches were most adorned by a wide acquaintance with literature. Mr. John McLean will carry weight as a shrewd business man and representative of mercantile interests, and Mr. John A. Matheson is a rising barrister who has excellent qualifications as a legislator. Without going further it would appear that the Opposition presents a creditable array of talent.

Among the many new men on the Ministerial side are Hon. Benjamin Rogers of Alberton, whose ability, legislative experience and high character indicate especial fitness for a cabinet position; Mr. R. C. McLeod, a shrewd and prominent business man of Summerside; his colleague Mr. Godkin, who had been an active political worker; Mr. D. P. Irving of Verdon River, Mr. Matthew Smith of Hampton; Mr. A. F. Bruce of Valleyfield and Mr. G. W. Simpson, excellent representatives of our intelligent, progressive and successful agriculturists; Mr. John F. Whear and Mr. H. J. Palmer, Q. C. who will furnish a valuable reinforcement to the otherwise limited quota of lawyers in the House; Mr. George E. Hughes, druggist of this city, Capt. Read of Summerside, Capt. Malcolm McDonald of Georgetown and others. We feel confident that among the new members will be found much excellent material that together with the number of strong men who are re-elected will make a House considerably superior in quality to the last one, and which will give a creditable account of itself in the years to come.

The esteemed Examiner is quite in error in assuming that THE GUARDIAN characterised Premier Farquharson's appeal to the people as a "constitutional outrage." That was Senator Ferguson's phrase. We were as far from agreeing with the Senator in that estimate as was the Examiner from agreeing with his action in denouncing the alleged "outrage" at the last moment. The Examiner's statement was: "It would, in our opinion have been folly to accentuate at the last moment the fact that the Premier was practically destitute of departmental colleagues." We trust that the wide difference of opinion between the Conservative organ and the Conservative party leader may not develop into active belligerency.

So far the Maritime Provinces appear to have furnished a larger crop of election protests than all the rest of Canada. P. E. Island is a banner Province in this rather doubtful business, every seat being protested.

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All accounts not paid before Dec. 20th next, will be placed in Lawyer's Office for collection.

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