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**THE MORNING GUARDIAN**

TUESDAY, JULY 22, 1902.

**GENERAL BULLER'S CASE.**

Every new discussion of General Buller's case seems to leave that unfortunate commander in a worse position than before. It seems strange indeed, in view of the now notorious facts that he should court publicity or seek to place the War Office on the defensive for its action in regard to him. It would appear that the War Office has really been a better friend of General Buller than he has been to himself. The matter was discussed again in Parliament last week when the military estimates were under consideration with the result that again a new fact was brought to light which must be very damaging to what remained of Buller's military reputation.

It was brought up by Sir Edward Grey, Liberal, who charged the War Office with acting unfairly towards the General, and demanded the publication of further papers. Mr. Brodrick, who replied for the Government, opposed the publication of additional despatches and papers, which, he said, could not relieve Gen. Buller of the responsibility for such mistakes as the abandonment of the guns at Colenso and the proposal to surrender Ladysmith. The latter, if it had been listened to by Gen.

White, would have heaped disaster upon disaster in a manner that had no parallel in British annals. He added, and this was the strong feature, that when Gen. Buller sounded his note of despair to Gen. White he had a heliogram in his pocket received a fortnight before, saying that Gen. White had provisions for seventy days and could defend Ladysmith as long as the food would last.

Mr. Brodrick defended the retention of Gen. Buller in command after Colenso and Spion Kop as inevitable, under the circumstances. He could not be replaced for the moment. He also spoke of his after appointment to the command at Aldershot, which was simply a resumption of the position he had held before the war. General Buller was "a good peace commander," Mr. Brodrick said, which probably the general will consider a rather sorry compliment. Sir Edward Grey's proposed vote of censure of the Government for its treatment of Gen. Buller was thereupon defeated by the very decisive vote of 236 nays to 98 yeas, a majority of 138. It may be hoped that the episode will now drop out of sight. Gen. Buller had rendered good service before the war in South Africa; he was held in high favor by his men; he, on his part, gave his men full credit for their valor and endurance even at Colenso—"The men are splendid," were his words; and he sought at the peril of his reputation to save his men from useless slaughter.

All this and much more might be said in his favor, but he made a sad failure of his earlier attempts to relieve Ladysmith and showed himself to have despaired of effecting that purpose long before it could be shown to be impossible. There were other serious mistakes and mishaps during the war, among which were the disasters of Magersfontein and Stormberg, but it fell to the lot of General Buller to inflict the most serious blow to British military prestige that it sustained during the struggle in South Africa. And so strong is the public sense of the fact that he seems extremely improbable that he will ever recover his lost fame and footing.

A western Canadian paper suggests that when Judges of the higher courts are retired from the bench by superannuation they be appointed to the Senate. It urges that their knowledge of the constitution and laws, and their long habit of viewing matters from an impartial, judicial standpoint would make them valuable members of the Upper House. Our own view is that a Judge of advanced years is better fitted to continue his life calling, with every phase of which he is familiar, than to embrace a new one in which he would necessarily have much to learn.

According to the Guelph Herald some of the western men of the Coronation Contingent are making loud complaints of the accommodation afforded them in crossing the Atlantic. One Guelph soldier is reported to have said, "We were used worse than cattle." There is usually one or more men with a grievance in any considerable company. The Guardian has also heard some complaints from men of the Contingent who have returned, but these complaints were hardly more emphatic than those we heard weeks before from those who sought for places on the ornamental force and were unable to obtain them. The Guelph Herald cites in this connection a trip once made by the poet James Gay on a cattle boat, in regard to which he wrote:

The cattle were fed far better than Gay,  
Only he couldn't eat any hay.

It is related of Mr. Seddon, Premier of New Zealand that he first came into political prominence in a mining constituency where he practiced his profession of law. At one time a noted bully of the diggings who owed Mr. Seddon money was about to sail for England without paying the debt. Seddon's clerk was afraid to approach the debtor. "All right," said the future Premier, "leave him to me. I'll settle him and make him settle the bill." Within an hour Seddon had an "interview" with the miner, who emerged therefrom with two black eyes and poorer by the amount he owed his vanquisher. From that time on Mr. Seddon was the idol of the mines.

More and more the salient features of the British system of Government are impressing our republican cousins in a favorable way. Here, for instance is the manner in which the New York World finds occasion to speak of the recent change from Salisbury to Balfour in the British Premiership: "An event more important than the coronation has passed off in London so quietly that nothing was known of it until it was over. When Lord Salisbury resigned as Premier and Mr. Balfour succeeded him the act transferred the government of one-third of the world into new hands. Yet it does not seem to have occurred to the British not on that it was necessary to get excited over it." To the World this presents a striking contrast with the American way "where we cannot transfer the government from one President to another without making as much fuss as if we had the whole revolutionary war to fight over again."

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