

WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Interesting Particulars of the Struggle Between Great Britain and the Boers.

CANADA TO HER CONTINGENTS.

God speed, ye valiant sons of mine!
God speed, O'er long, long leagues o' seas
And land to find right's enemy!

I pray that as ye strive in war
Ye be in truth your country's sons.
As those in times gone past have been.
No God of wars would make ye more

And when time comes, and it will come,
That in some deadful field ye fall
Blood oozing from your heart and mine,
Praise glorious fate that sent ye such
A destiny divine. What wish ye more
Then in your fall to raise a host?

One last great day will come and thou
Wilt stand before thy Judge to plead
This be thy cause: "My God, I died
To take a cruel, cursing heel
From off my fellowman for my
Dear country's sake, and right's and
Thine."

Then One who saw what men had
missed,
Thy valorous deed, shall on thy breast,
Most harmony of sounds sublime,
Thy honor lodge eternally.

Louis Blake Duff.

TOMMY IN HOSPITAL.

The following was written by a military nurse and published in the London Outlook. It gives a good idea of Tommy in hospital:

Maritzburg, Christmas Week.

A military nurse, apart from the direct professional interest in the cases brought to her care, is in a position to acquire considerable insight into the "manner of man" that makes up the British army.

And in this campaign unfortunately

here is no lack of subjects. They are carried in to her in tens, in twenties, and in hundreds. Every regiment is only too well represented. Devons, Inniskillings, Queens, Connaught Rangers, etc., lie side by side, men from Dublin, London, Warwickshire, Northumberland, and Cornwall, almost from every town and village throughout the Islands.

Essentially loyal and logical is our British fighting material. Devotion to the Queen, an unshakable, childlike faith in British superiority, the courage that cannot picture fear, produces these "soldier battles" that call forth the astonished admiration of Africa and Europe. At the same time the sturdy logic in your British soldier demands results: a definite aim to be fought for and attained, no matter the cost; but the enemy still at large, even having a say in the armistice, does not meet his ideas, and he turns dissatisfied and ironical.

Perhaps a few remarks noted down at random may best convey an impression of army philosophy. There is no self-deception or vain imagining about Tommy Atkins; ever cheerful, he yet takes a very unvarnished view of his profession of arms and expresses himself thus: "What became of Jones?" "Died of dysentery." "And Hobson?" "Bullet knocked him clean out Colenso day, two feet off me." "A couple of pals o' mine fell same time" (very cheerfully.) "There'll be another killing (meaning encounter) before long I warrant."

"Any wounded in the tent?" "Yes, sister, all wounds" (in chorus) "and we would like to know what satisfaction we have out of them." "Mere manslaughter, that Colenso affair." "Never saw a Boer all day." "Call 'em brave behind their rocks? Why, they only had to shut their eyes, let go the trigger, and they couldn't help hitting us." "I

say we are pretty fools to stand up and be shot down just for the fun of it; to see how we like it (ironically) I suppose." "There was General Buller in the thick of it close up to General Clery, making a target of himself and us; wonder he was not killed—shells all round, close up."

Another struck in. "I got satisfaction out of this," patting a bullet-riddled shoulder and chest. "Good business Willow Grange—had the Boers there, sent them helter-skelter."

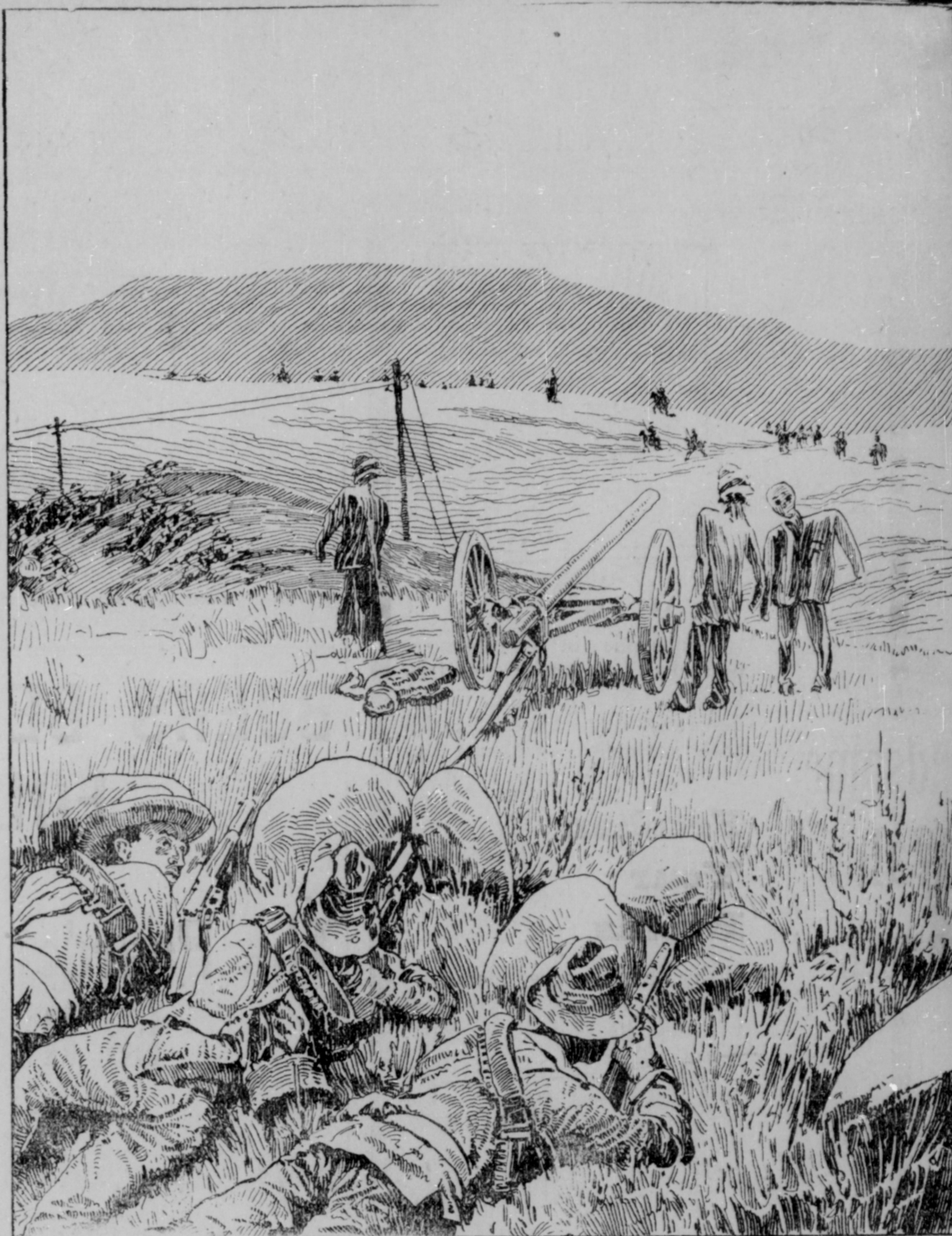
"Take us up to the Boers, right in among 'em, and you'll find your one British soldier a match for twenty of 'em; why ain't he a match for any one all the world over? let alone a Boer" (scornfully).

The one prevailing idea of the soldier in the hospital is to get patched up and returned to the field. He makes an excellent patient, uncomplaining and trustful, doing what he is told like an obedient child. The penalties to warfare he easily and good-naturedly accepts as part of the day's work. Just a bit of chaff and that is all.

"When them doctors get to hitching off arms and legs there's no holding 'em, they're just a bit too handy like over these 'er jobs." "They want to be even with the Boers." "Can't understand our generals, can't make 'em out no-how." "Got us back when we were close on 'em. Wouldn't have no night attack (Colenso), but we'll have our turn soon, we won't be kept back from Pretoria, not we." And they sit up to eat their Christmas pudding, glowing with enthusiasm for their Queen who did not forget her soldiers, fighting to give her back a continent. A. G.

COLONIAL OFFICERS.

Lord Lansdowne, in his recent speech in the House of Lords, said, in respect to obtaining officers for the forces: "For



CAPT. DUMMY, SERGT. SCARECROW AND PRIVATE BOGUS; A LITTLE JOKE OF THE IMPERIAL LIGHT HORSE.

the new linebattalions we intend to raise, and for the new batteries of artillery, we shall want a large number of officers; and I frankly confess to the House that the difficulty of taking officers in a proper number and quality seems to me to be one of the most serious, if not the most serious, with which we have to contend.

"We expect to draw on the reserve of officers, of whom there are, I think, about 1,700, and for the rest we must depend upon promotions in the higher ranks, accompanied, of course, by the admission of a very large number of officers of subaltern rank as well.

"With this object we intend to offer commissions to the militia and volunteers, to the universities, and a small number of public schools. We also intend to offer commissions to the colonies—(cheers)—from whom we have already received many excellent officers. (Cheers.)"

THE CANADIAN DEAD

Arthur Weir, Montreal

Dead by the Modder they lie,
Under a southern sky.
Happy it is to die

For country and Queen.
The south their bones shall hold,
But here in the north, behold,
The shrine of those strong and bold
Shall rise ere the grass is green.

Dead by the Modder! our sons
Their dead hands clasping their guns,
Dead! while the enemy runs,

Dead, but our flag sweeps along.
Now, well we know that we are
One people beneath every star,
One blood, one steel; and afar
The nations know, now we are
strong.

WHERE BRITAIN'S STRENGTH LIES.

The British army in South Africa has simply suffered in a demonstration of pivotal importance in all modern war. Very probably, in spite of the bitter English criticism of the British Generals, they have done about as well as the Generals of any other army of a great State in this new ordeal of war.

It has been a bitter lesson, but it was inevitable. Meantime, has the British Empire suffered from anything except a blow to the sensitive pride of the English people? No State and no alliance of State dares to assail it because of the events in South Africa. The British Empire is held together in its invincible integrity by the British navy; and while the war in South Africa has taught for the first

time the lesson that even vast superiority in numbers cannot countervail the advantage enjoyed by even a small defence, our war with Spain taught the world for the first time the lesson that the modern battleship, of the type possessed by the British navy in numbers exceeding those of the navies whose combined opposition to her is possible, is an engine of attack and defence of practically invincible power. The dominion of the seas constitutes the strength of the British Empire, and nothing that has occurred or can occur in South Africa will lessen it, though the indefinite prolongation of the war might seriously impair the British commercial supremacy.—New York Sun.

BRITAIN NOT ALONE.

Great Britain is not the only nation having wars and troubles in distant dependencies. France, constantly engaged in fighting the natives in Africa, China and Siam, has lately had her troubles increased by an insurrection in Madagascar, while a rebellion has just started in her West India possessions. It was recently shown by government returns that the civil and military expenditure for the government of these 'colonies' enormously exceeded their exports and imports. As a matter of fact, the colonies, so called, constituted a drain on the national finances second only to the army and navy. German colonial affairs are in a condition little more satisfactory. Recent debates in the Reichstag showed that the colonies are decidedly unprofitable, the expenditure on them having gone on constantly increasing, while their trade is declining. German East Africa has been devastated by plague and famine, the district of Tongo alone during the year of 1899 lost nearly fifty-two thousand out of a population considerably less than a quarter of a million. This colony costs

Germany five times as much as its entire trade, and it is counted one of the most prosperous of German possessions. It is stated further that German colonial railway projects call for the expenditure of two hundred million marks, while German trade with British colonies amounts to five hundred million marks annually, without entailing one mark expense. All this, too, in spite of the fact that both France and Germany have imposed tariffs on their colonies which exclude other nations from trading with them, except at a heavy disadvantage. Thus it appears that the colonial empires these nations have sought to establish in emulation of Great Britain have not so far proved anything better than costly experiments. The reason for this appears to be that neither is a colonizing nation. Their colonial system is a sort of paternalism administered in the German possessions by a cut and dried bureaucracy, and in those of France by a politically organized and swarming officialdom. The last place an emigrating German thinks of going to is a German colony. Emigrants from France are few, for her population is merely stationary, and conscription acts as a deterrent to emigration, while at the same time the lives of thousands of soldiers are yearly sacrificed in maintaining colonial garrisons and prosecuting colonial wars.

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Buttons,
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School Bags,
Shawl Straps,
Handkerchiefs,
Hatpins,
Ladies' Ties,
Collars,
Cuffs,

Hose Suspenders,
Shirt Supporters,
Handkerchief Boxes,
Purses,
Card Cases,
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