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THE DAILY EXAMINER

NOVEMBER 1, 1899.

SITUATION AT LADYSMITH.

There is nothing, so far as we can see, to justify the conclusion of some of the telegraphic correspondents that the forces of Great Britain have suffered "a crushing defeat" at Ladysmith. The British continue to hold their position, though it was the object of the Boers to dislodge them from it. The Boers have been defeated in their object. The British in South Africa have not, so far, suffered any kind of a defeat. But it must be admitted that a series of such victories would soon lead to their undoing. By reason of a blunder, an admitted blunder, on the part of their commander, nearly two thousand men were delivered into the hands of the Boers to be slaughtered or taken prisoners. It was such a blunder as has occurred upon many fields of battle from which British troops emerged in the end, victorious. The loss of the brave men is, from every point of view, deplorable. But it is not to be regarded as crushing. It will not, we venture to say, daunt the ardor of the British army at Ladysmith, though confidence in its present commander has, of course, been disturbed. It will rather cause the officers to be more careful in future, and nerve the men to additional efforts. In the words of our despatch of to-day, it will operate as a warning and an incentive. So far, the men now engaged in South Africa have proved themselves, in the face of an enemy numbering two to one, to be as brave and efficient as the bravest and most efficient of their forefathers. And they will soon have help. The disaster has already resulted in a rush to arms on the part of residents of Natal and Cape Colony, and in an agitation for the immediate organization of additional contingents from the Colonies. General Buller is now within measurable distance of the scene of action, and regiments of regulars will, ere long, follow in his wake.

The enemy and all the enemy's friends are, of course, overjoyed because General White allowed the flower of his army to be entrapped in such a way. No doubt the Boers' efforts will now be redoubled. But it is not likely, we think, that any of the nations inimical to Great Britain will be induced to declare war.

ANOTHER FAILURE

Our farmers and shippers were disappointed and disgusted when the promised steamer (to sail between Charlottetown and Liverpool) did not arrive last spring. This fall, when the Lake Huron arrived, the burden of supplying her with freight fell, consequently, for the most part, upon two or three shippers. Now we hear, through The Patriot and The Guardian, that the Lake Huron is not coming here again. It is greatly to be regretted that a service calculated to benefit this Province incalculably has been so intermittently mismanaged by the powers that be that it must needs be abandoned until better men of business have been given authority at Ottawa.

SIR CHARLES' VISIT.

We learn that it is Sir Charles Tupper's intention to proceed to the West at an early day. The veteran chieftain has made a wonderful tour of Ontario and portions of Quebec. Not even around Sir John McDonald in his greatest days did the people of the larger provinces rally as they have done around Sir Charles Tupper. Sir Charles will address meetings in all the important centres of Manitoba, the Northwest and British Columbia. On his return from the Northwest, it is his intention to fulfill the promise made some time ago of visiting Prince Edward Island. His many friends in this province will be sorry that his visit will not be at an earlier date, but will be delighted to hear of the success that has attended him in the centre and the west.

CAUSE OF THE DEBT.

The Patriot laments that THE EXAMINER has not replied to its article of the 25th inst., on our big debt and why it increased. But, if we remember rightly, that article was directed against Mr. A. P. Prowse; and Mr. Prowse will, we presume, give it his attention if he should deem it worth his while to do so. In the meantime, we again ask The Patriot to show, if it can, how far and in what manner public education in this Province has been advanced as a result of the additional expenditures on account of it which, The Patriot says, the increase of the debt was caused?

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—A correspondent writes: "At St. Mary's road Mr. D. A. McKinnon referred to himself as the son of a farmer who was a devoted follower of Coles and Whelan. The present Chief Justice Sullivan he referred to as the most economical Premier who ever ruled in P. E. Island, and loudly lauded him for the manner in which he pressed our claims against the Dominion, and concluded by saying that he was a "brick." At the very next meeting in Glen William he told the Highlanders there that he did not know why they should oppose him—unless they objected to his being a Scotchman; that the Attorney-Generalship often led to a judgeship; and that Irishmen and Englishmen got those positions. He was one face to the people of St. Mary's Road and another to the people of Glen William. Mr. D. A. McKinnon seems to have the happy faculty of adapting himself to the different occasions and localities. He believes in the saying of the Yankee statesman: "Those are my principles, gentlemen. They are as firm as the heavens. But if they don't suit you I can change them."

Mail and Empire: Israel Tarte does not represent the feeling of French Canada on the subject of Imperialism. He grossly misrepresents it, and it is in such men as Thomas Chase Casgrain that it finds expression.

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