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THE DAILY EXAMINER
NOVEMBER 2, 1899.
THE NEWS.

ACCORDING to the returns, the total loss of the British in killed, wounded and prisoners has, so far been about 2100. Of this number, about 1200 is to be charged to the Ladysmith accident. As we anticipated, this disaster has roused the people and government of the Mother Country. Forty-one additional steamships have been chartered as transports to carry fresh troops to the scene of action.

DOES NOT KNOW ITS OWN MIND.

DIVIDED in opinion and flabbergasted, the Government of Canada have acted a ridiculous part in connection with our contingent for the Transvaal war. First, they said it was illegal to send a contingent without the authorization of Parliament; then they sent it. Next it was announced that the sending of a contingent was not to be construed as a "precedent" because the Government of Canada did not want to take part in the wars of the Empire and ought not to do so unless the people of Canada were directly represented and possessed the right to vote in the Imperial Councils. A day or two afterwards the Minister of Militia knocked that idea on the head by declaring that "the Empire is no longer a power with dependencies, but a power made up of several nations"—of which Canada is one—and indicating that the action of Canada, in regard to the contingent, is independent and spontaneous. Then it was announced that—following the lead of Sir Charles Tupper—all the men of the contingent "had been" insured by the Government. Now we are informed that this has not been done, and that the Government will, itself assume the risk. One thing is clear and that is that the Government of Canada, as at present constituted is so ridiculously weak that it can not be depended upon as to either word or act. Certainly it does not deserve the confidence of the people of Canada.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—We hear with regret that John Gaffney, Esq., for several years High Sheriff of Prince County, died at Summerside last evening. Mr. Gaffney has been in bad health for a long time. He was deservedly respected by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

—According to the Toronto Globe's report, Mr. Fortin, M. P., and Mr. Ethier, M. P., who followed Mr. Tarte as speakers at St. Vincent de Paul, did not agree with the policy of the Government in sending the contingent, but did not see the use of resigning like Mr. Bourassa, for this would only bring to power Sir Charles Tupper and the Conservatives.

GLoucester's RECORD.—The Gloucester, Mass., vessel owners closed their books for the official year on Monday. Their figures show that 60 lives were lost on vessels from that port, and that 15 vessels were totally wrecked, causing a direct financial loss of \$80,000. In the cost of the casualties resulting from the two great storms last winter be added, the total would be increased to \$115,000. Among the fishermen reported lost is Patrick Findley, of Prince Edward Island.

A MINISTERIAL DIFFERENCE!

Mr. TARTE has informed the country that he consented to the sending of a Canadian contingent on the distinct understanding that it should not be considered a precedent for future action; for he maintains that this part of the British Empire has nothing to do with the defence of other parts of the British Empire! It appears that some of his colleagues hold other opinions. Thus, the Minister of Militia, speaking at Quebec a few days ago, said:

"The Empire is no longer a power with dependencies, but a power made up of several nations. The process of empire building in this sense may have gone slowly, but now it has come. In the past the main difficulty was to find a means of bringing about this step, but now it is developed, just as the great constitution under which the Empire is governed has been developed. Canada is now taking part in the wars of the Empire, without anyone being able to tell how it came about; but we are all pleased that it did come about."

Mr. Tarte represents an idea that is distinctly antagonistic to Dr. Borden's idea; and the two must clash ere long.

THE BICYCLE IN WAR.

THE campaign in South Africa is the first in which bicycles have been practically employed by troops. Sir Redvers Buller has issued an order to the effect that departmental officers at bases shall have the option of using their cycles instead of horses, and receive an allowance in lieu of rations. The fact goes to prove that military authorities are at length beginning to perceive the practical value of the bicycle in warfare.

ESTERMED EXCHANGES.

Mail and Empire: "If Sir Wilfrid Laurier were a man of strength, imbued with the best sentiments for Canada, Israel Tarte would not rule in the Cabinet for three minutes."

St. John Sun: It is easy to criticise after the fact. General White is a tried and capable officer and it may be assumed that the strategy was not so transparent on the field as it seems to the man at the desk.

Montreal Gazette: Mr. Tarte's visit to Paris may, as he himself has publicly declared, have been a good thing for his liver, but it must surely have turned his head, or he would not talk such pointless nonsense about "taxation without representation" and "claiming a seat in the councils of the Empire." We pay no Imperial taxation and it is not proposed that we should. The Imperial Government has not asked Canada for a single cent or a single soldier to defend Imperial interests in the Transvaal. The offer was made by Canada of its own free will, and the whole of the expenditure will come under the consideration of the Dominion Parliament, where the taxpayers of Canada are fully represented, or misrepresented, if the members try to make out that the sending of the contingent is not the spontaneous expression of Canadian loyalty.

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