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RICHIBUCTO, N. B. MARCH 7, 1901

BRITISH ARMY REFORM.

The war in South Africa has given rise to a general demand for the reorganization of the British Army. According to several critics the people of Great Britain have been maintaining an immense empire with a wholly inadequate military force. In its present shape, says Mr. Sydney Low, the British army is simply not strong enough to garrison and police the Empire. The opinion is generally expressed that the British plan of maintaining a small regular army by voluntary recruiting will not answer the purpose. The increase of the present army, without a modification of the system would be a most expensive measure. To quote Mr. Low again, "we could have I dare say 300,000 men as good as the Metropolitan police or the Gordon Highlanders if we chose to find the money for them, but even the British Empire cannot afford so costly a luxury." Military reformers are beginning to look wistfully at the various European systems, but all of them are afraid of the dislike which the word conscription arouses in the British mind. There is a general agreement that some means must be found of making use of the civilian population of the country for military purposes, and the method most favored seems to be to apply the militia ballot, without distinction, to all able bodied citizens. The phrase compulsory service is used in this connection, but as a matter of fact there would be no need to drive unwilling men into military service. Nothing in the recent history of the war is more remarkable than the enthusiasm with which citizens, both in Great Britain and in the Colonies have volunteered for service. What the citizen soldiery of Great Britain require is not compulsion but encouragement, combined with means for systematic drill and organization.

One result of the present war has been to show the high point of military efficiency that can be attained by men who do not spend the whole of their time in barracks, who work on their farms or in other peaceful occupations during the greater part of the year, but who are good shots, good riders, and undergo a certain amount of military training in which very little time is given to pipe-clay fancy drill and etiquette and a great deal to the things which go to make an intelligent and efficient fighting man. In this connection the military system of Switzerland has been attracting much favorable attention. Switzerland being a democratic country, the name of which is associated in every mind with heroic struggles for liberty, would be more readily accepted by Englishmen as a model than some of the other countries of Europe. Every man in Switzerland is liable to

military service from twenty to fifty. For the first twelve years he is in the Auszug or Elite; for eight years more from his thirty second to his fortieth birthday he is in the Landwehr; and after that he passes into the Landsturm or final reserve, which would not be called out except in the last extremity. The young men of the first line are subjected in their first year to a pretty stiff training. They spend eighty days in the cavalry, forty-five in the infantry, fifty-five in the artillery and fifty in the engineers with short periods in the transport and departmental corps. After this they have only about ten days training every year. The Landwehr man gets off with a week's training every four years and in the Landsturm the citizen has only to attend one parade every year to show that his weapons are in good order and that he knows how to use them.

Mr. Low, from whose article in the Nineteenth Century this description is taken, adds that while the term of service is comparatively short no time is wasted. Every day is one of hard and useful work. The recruit is taught nothing but what will be of practical value in defending the country. "His uniform is simple, he is not overdone with the elaborate and often useless exercises of the parade ground, his time is not wasted in sentry-go or barrack routine. His attention is concentrated on what a great French tactical authority calls the true work of a soldier in war, that is to say the study of the ground and the study of the arm. To handle his rifle and if he is a cavalry soldier his horse, to shoot straight, to execute the manoeuvres of the field and especially the art of taking advantage of natural features are what the Swiss soldier is taught; and an intelligent man could learn these lessons quickly when his mind is not occupied with superfluous detail." Rifle shooting is encouraged by private shooting clubs which are liberally aided by the Federal government, and gymnastics in a similar way.

It is admitted that this system could not be transplanted bodily to England but it seems to possess features well worthy of imitation. One of these is that it gives each man a thoroughly good military training in his youth when his enthusiasm is likely to be high and when he can be spared from civil pursuits without much loss. Having once received this thorough grounding a few days' service every year will prevent him from forgetting what he has learned. We may make the matter clearer by supposing that every Canadian volunteer on enlisting would receive four or five months of training. After that the fortnight's drill every year which is now considered hardly sufficient to make him an efficient soldier would serve very well to supplement his early training. It is altogether likely that as a result of the present war Great Britain will pay more attention to her citizen soldiers both at home and in the Colonies.

J. D. Hazen, M. P. P., had very little to say of the success of the local government in the settlement of the Eastern Extension claims. Mr. Hazen was a member for a New Brunswick constituency, yet with all his eloquence he could not persuade the tory government to consider the claims of New Brunswick. The Tweedie government is to be congratulated on the satisfactory settlement. With the Eastern Extension claim settled and the reduction of interest on our bonded indebtedness, Mr. Hazen has two hard nuts to crack and the people will not support a man who has nothing to offer the country but bluster and talk.

THE POWER OF RICHES.

The revelations of the past few years in the United States of rich men debauching a state for political aggrandisement have brought to many minds the prophetic warnings of Dr. Tocqueville in his American Democracy with-in a hundred years ago in which he points out the only real danger which might in the years to come threaten democratic institutions in America. The very equality of men and absence of class restrictions makes the power of riches greater for good or ill under democratic conditions. The efforts of Addicks in Delaware and of Clark in Montana to purchase power by the lavish use of their enormous wealth in bribing whole legislatures have shocked the moral sense of the people. Senator Hoar in his Lincoln Day speech referred to this subject, and in words of burning oratory denounced the new danger to the Democracy. He said in reference to this:

"The whipping post, the branding on the forehead, the cropping of the ears, the scourging at the cart's tail, are light punishments for the rich man who would debauch a state, whether it be an old state with an honorable history or a young and pure state in the beginning of its history."

We in Canada have been comparatively free from such national crimes for, if we except the revelation of political debauchery in 1872 known as the Hugh Allan scandal, in which Sir John A. McDonald openly admitted the receipt for the use of the Conservative party of thousands of dollars from the sale of the C. P. R. charter, neither political party has been guilty. In this one striking exception, the moral sense of the Canadian people revolted so strongly that the parties concerned were driven from power in the elections which followed close on revelations.

Previous to the last general elections, a man named H. H. Cook made general charges of being offered a senatorship for the sum of \$10,000, but when Sir Wilfred Laurier challenged him publicly to name the man who was guilty of such a national outrage, Mr. Cook was silent and has remained silent ever since. The matter is to be investigated by Parliament this session and either the author of the story proven to be guilty of a criminal misstatement or the name of the guilty party given to the world.

There are many things in the body politic of Canada which people of both political views deprecate, and which are equally practiced by both, such as the bribery of electors, but Canadians have ever been proud of the fact that our public men have never been able to buy their preferment, and our people are determined to maintain the record. The great danger in this country is the power of the private corporation, for it has become most evident that corporations not only have no soul but they have no patriotism and the recognition of this truth is more and more inclining the Canadian people to the idea of national ownership of important public franchises.

J. D. Hazen, M. P. P., in his address on the speech from the throne employed his usual carping methods.

It must have been remarkably funny to hear J. D. Hazen charging Hon. L. J. Tweedie with changing his political opinions. This was the Mr. Hazen who was supporting Hon. A. G. Blair in 1890 and was anxious to be a candidate, in St. John, at the election of that year, on the local government ticket.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Mr. LaForest, M. P. P., explains why his party did not run candidates at the recent by-elections. It was not smallpox, snow or bad roads. The local opposition wished to reserve their financial ammunition until the general elections.

We have been waiting to hear what those worthy tory organs have to say to the LaForest explanation of the election by acclamation in Kent, Westmoreland, York and Carleton.

It would almost appear as if W. F. Maclean was getting ready to oust R. L. Borden. He has been leading the House during the past week.

W. F. Maclean announced he was opposed to British preferential trade and the tories greeted it with applause. Where is that great British patriotism we hear so much of during the election campaign? Had a Liberal made such a statement the entire tory press would have denounced him as a traitor.

The Sun has not had one word in its columns about Maclean's speech in opposition to preferential trade with Great Britain. Why this silence? The Sun knows that preferential trade with Britain is popular in the Maritime provinces.

The Sun is fast passing away. Its Ottawa correspondence is not a report of the House, but the criticism of some hair-brained reporter. To-day the St. John Sun is the poorest paper published in the metropolis of New Brunswick.

The Telegraph blossomed out into a twelve page paper on Saturday. The new management are evidently go ahead people. The make up of the Telegraph has improved during the past few weeks and the selection of matter is excellent. There is no paper east of Montreal which compares with the Daily Telegraph. We congratulate the new management and the entire staff of the Telegraph.

The Moncton Times is very sick of the Telegraph quoting from its files. We have some old clippings from the Times which will dazzle that organ's eyes when we start in after it.

We congratulate C. W. Robinson, M. P. P., upon his elevation to the speakership of the House of Assembly. It was a good selection.

Hon. George E. Foster appeared at the tory caucus in Ottawa last week. He could not keep away. He must feel fearfully out in the cold now with Borden and Maclean leading by fits and starts.

Why does not our own George take a trip to Ottawa? The tories might like to hear his stentorian tones, even in a caucus.

The lion of March may be expected at the close of the month.

The policy of the tory party veers about like April winds.

Children Cry for CASTORIA.

Bing—What's become of your dog? I haven't seen him around lately.

Boker—I took the precaution to try some of the medicines on him that were recommended to me for the grip.—Chicago Times-Herald.

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THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL.

A story is told by Henry George, Jr., in regard to the visit of the late General Joubert to the United States some years ago.


"He had lived in this country years before, and now he desired to see what change had come in New York. So a carriage party went into the business center, crossed the big bridge, observed the elevated railroad structure, drove through the park, viewed the imposing buildings, and inspected in passing the residences of the richest in a metropolis, fast getting to be the wealthiest city in the world.

"I have now seen how the rich, idle people live among you," he said. "Please let me see how the working people live." Accordingly the carriage was driven through the swarming East Side, where people had piled up in the past decade so that a single square block contains what are called the 'homes' of a thousand human beings—the population of a good-sized village. The visitor slowly shook his head and said, as if reluctantly: 'How can I go back and tell my people that this must be one of the fruits of their ardent dream; that the great republic, after which our new little republic is fashioned, shows a terrible gangrene in its very heart, in the center of its biggest and proudest and most splendid city!'"

The story points the moral that it is in vain to expect human happiness to result from any form of government. It is possible too that Joubert's experience in New York may have hardened him in his determination to resist the progress of modern civilization in the Transvaal and to preserve the Simplicity of life was doomed when gold was discovered in such enormous quantities in the Transvaal, apart altogether from the question of British or foreign intervention. Human nature is much the same everywhere, and if the Boers had retained entire control of the gold fields, we can scarcely imagine them leaving the precious metal in the ground, or refraining from using it for the ordinary purposes of luxury and ostentation.

From the standpoint of those who admire simplicity of life, the discovery of gold in a country must be regarded as an evil rather than as a blessing. While this

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view may be regarded as extreme, it is probably true that that country is most fortunate which yields to honest labor the necessities of life and which contains in abundance such things as timber, coal and iron which become the foundation of great industries.

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