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RICHIBUCTO, N. B., APRIL 17, 1902.

MILITARY FORCES.

When the peace Conference met at the Hague four years ago, it was confidently expected that war was a thing of the past and that henceforward peace would reign over the entire world. But scarcely was the Conference ended than wars and rumors of war were heard. Though only a short time has elapsed, there have been two great wars and a number of petty ones. The Spanish-American war followed by the Philippine rebellion and the British Boer war have kept the two great Anglo-Saxon nations in arms and the Boxer movement in China has been the means of keeping the armies of the great European nations actively engaged. Perhaps at no time in the history of the world have such large armies been maintained and such large amounts spent in maintaining them as now. The great European nations are armed to the teeth and their treasuries are kept empty in supporting their vast armies. The United States is adding to her army and her navy as well. Great Britain, on account of its maritime position, has never maintained a large standing army, but the cost of building and maintaining her great navy has been enormous. Just now the cost of the South African war is being severely felt and the British taxpayer is in a position to sympathize with his neighbors on the continent, ground down under a crushing military tax. The Montreal Witness contains the report of a recent interview with a Canadian who has lately returned from England where he has been spending a few weeks. It is very painful, he says, for a Canadian to realize the crushing burden of taxation which has fallen upon struggling people in Britain and the uncomplaining way in which they face it. Yet if this gentleman had visited many of the countries in continental Europe, he would probably have arrived at the conclusion that the burden of the British taxpayer is light when compared with that borne in these countries. He would have seen and been pained at the still greater hardship caused by the policy of conscription which is unknown in Great Britain. We in Canada know nothing about military taxes. We have not yet been called upon to assume our share of the expense of defending the empire. That expenditure has in the past been almost entirely borne by the mother country, though we as one of her colonies have enjoyed the benefits for

which it was incurred. But as we grow our responsibilities will increase. We are becoming a nation and it is but just and natural that we should begin to assume some of these expenses and take steps looking to our own defence should occasion arise. For years we have had undergoing training a militia of about 35,000 men, but it has been felt that the efficiency of this force could be much improved. It is therefore learned with general satisfaction that the government intends taking steps to further improve and increase this force. The proposal is to increase the force to 100,000 men, to establish factories for the manufacture of rifles and munitions of war and to have a more thoroughly trained body of officers and men. The late wars have demonstrated the fact that in modern warfare the rifle is by far the most effective and serviceable weapon and the idea is to establish rifle clubs throughout the country from which recruits will be drawn for the volunteer service. It is possible the Minister declares to have in Canada a very effective defensive force at a cost very little in excess of the expenditure for militia purposes in the past. The government should receive the support of all parties in its efforts to improve the defences of the country. Much has been heard of the loyalty of Canada, but very little has been done to remove from the shoulders of the mother country the burden of our defence. The Minister of Militia has been most energetic in the work of organizing and equipping the Canadian contingents sent to South Africa, and his scheme for promoting the efficiency and strength of the Canadian military force is another evidence of his eminent fitness for the position he occupies.

INDIAN NOMENCLATURE.

The managers of the Canadian Pacific Railway have decided to change the names of a number of the stations on their line of railway between St. John and Fredericton. It was found that the names of these stations were duplicated on other sections of their roads and this gave rise to endless confusion and trouble. In making the change, old Micmac and Milicete names have been substituted. In this the managers have shown good judgment. It would be well if changes were made in other parts and the old Indian names substituted for those now existing. It is perhaps natural that English, Scotch, Irish and French settlers in a new country should desire to give to the localities in which they settle, names brought with them from the old country. It was however a great mistake and has given rise to great inconvenience and confusion. The disadvantages and inconveniences resulting from a confusion of names was well illustrated in Kingston in this County. There were two Kingstons in this province, one in Ontario, several in the United States, two in the West Indies, and a dozen other Kingstons in different parts of the world. The greatest confusion resulted from confounding Kingston, Kent County, with Kingston, Kings County, and sometimes with Kingston, Ontario. Mail matter, bank drafts, parcels and freight were constantly miscarried. An express parcel or bundle of freight urgently required would often after great delay and trouble be found lying in Kingston, Kings County, or perhaps find its way to Kingston, Ontario. The people finally lost patience and

changed the name to Rexton. Newcastle is another name that might well be changed in a number of cases. There is a Newcastle in Northumberland County, another in Queens County and a score of other Newcastles. A bill was before the legislature last session to change the name of Newcastle, Northumberland County, but for some reason failed to pass. Even in the case of large cities there is sometimes great inconvenience caused by this confusion of names. Saint John, New Brunswick; Saint John's, Quebec, and Saint John's Newfoundland, are quite frequently confounded with each other. By retaining the Indian names borne by these places, all this difficulty would have been avoided. The Indian names too are much more appropriate and the stranger is constantly reminded that he is in the ancient home of the red man. There is also a certain softness and rhythm in these names which catches the ear and impresses itself on the memory. What more distinctive and euphonious names could be found than Kouchibouguac, Kouchibouguais, Adogwaasook, Richibucto and Buc-touche in this County, and the old Indian names retained in other parts of the province.

MANUFACTURED REPORTS.

Stories have from time to time been published in the pro-Boer journals charging the British with cruelty towards the Boer women and children, and quite recently a story has been published by the Boer bureau at Amsterdam alleged to be a report from General Delarey charging the British soldiers with most atrocious acts of cruelty. No doubt the object of these reports is to keep alive the feeling of hostility so strong in these countries against Great Britain, and perhaps to influence the peace negotiations now in progress. It is safe to say the report was concocted in Holland by the exiled Boers there and that General Delarey never heard of the document. Those who are near the seat of war know that the British are most lenient in their treatment of the Boer prisoners and that the Boer women and children are treated with the greatest consideration. Indeed it is alleged that the British in their methods are too humane and this is one of the reasons why the Boers are able to prolong the struggle. Quarter-master Lepin, of Quebec, a French-Canadian in the South African Light Horse, writes an interesting letter to Le Soliel about the progress of the war. Lepin insists that one of the principal causes of the long continuance of the war is to be found in the too great humanity of the English, and declares that the charges of brutality and of cruelty, made in certain quarters against the army, are odious calumnies. He continues: "The Boer women and children are not only respected, but protected. They are collected in camps in the healthiest localities, fed clothed and cared for at the cost of the government. It is the same with the Boer prisoners. They are treated with the greatest tenderness, and better provided for than are the soldiers in the field."

The death of Rev. T. Dewitt Talmage removes one of the greatest preachers of modern times and one whose sermons reached every part of the English-speaking world. The charge was often made against him that he was sensationalist and

more interested in advertising himself than in advancing the christian cause. It is true his sermons were published and sent broadcast throughout the land. They were read and appreciated by millions of people. His forcible expression and graphic description could not fail to impress the reader. It will probably be some time before his place in the religious world will be filled.

It would appear that there is ground for the hope of an early cessation of hostilities in South Africa and a surrender of the Boers in the field. Still the British are pushing forward preparations for a more active and aggressive campaign as if there were no prospect of peace.

Great Britain proposes to meet the cost of the war by a duty of six cents per hundred pounds on wheat and ten cents per hundred on flour. The income tax is also increased and a stamp tax placed on bills of exchange. The timber duty will not be imposed.

TEETHING TIME

is the Critical Age in the Life of all Little Ones.

During the teething period great care should be taken of baby's health. The little one suffers greatly; the gums are hard and inflamed and any disorder of the stomach or bowels increases the peevishness of the child and often fatal results follow. Mother's greatest aid at this period is Baby's Own Tablets—the surest of all remedies in curing the minor ailments of children. Among the many mothers who testify to the value of these Tablets is Mrs. R. B. Bickford, Glen Sutton, Que., who says:—"My little baby suffered much from teething and indigestion. I procured a box of Baby's Own Tablets and it worked wonders in baby's condition—in fact I believe it saved my little one's life. I sincerely believe that where now many a home is saddened through death of a little one, joy would be supreme if these Tablets had been used. I consider them baby's best doctor and would not be without them."

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HARCOURT.

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and the owners are beginning to smile again.

I. C. R. operator Larkin Morton, who has been off duty for some time on account of illness spent Sunday in town. He left for St. John this morning to visit friends.

Mr. H. J. Humphrey, night operator at Canaan, also spent Sunday here. Jasper very often takes a run up. A South African heroine seems to be the attraction.

Miss Maud Vanbuskirk is visiting friends in Moncton.

Miss Debbie Morton, of Pine Ridge, is here looking after her sister, Mrs. H. McMichael, who has been ill for some time.

Master Tupper Morton who was attending Rothesay Collegiate school, is home just now on account of sickness. Hope you will soon be O. K. again, Tupper.

Mr. L. P. McMichael, our genial station agent, made a flying visit to Moncton last week. Len is always in good humor and by his obliging manner he has made himself a special favorite with everyone.

Mr. Woodville Ingram, I. C. R. fireman, spent Sunday with his parents here.

Mr. B. McLeod who came home from Sydney, C. B., some weeks ago in poor health, is still on the sick list.

Mr. A. Ferguson has sold his driving mare to a gentleman from Sydney who has been here buying a car load of horses.

Mrs. Wilson, who has been living in Chatham for the past year, has returned to Harcourt on account of the illness of her daughter Eva. She has moved into the manse. Her many friends are pleased to see her back.

A sad event occurred here on Monday last when a son of Mr. David Crossman, of Chipman, died of brain fever. The deceased, who was only nineteen, was on his way home from the Maine lumber woods where he has been for the past year. Not feeling well he stopped at Harcourt for medical aid and died a few days later without recognizing either his father or mother who were summoned when his condition was found to be critical. A funeral service was held in St. Matthew's Episcopal church and remains were interred at Brown's Yard.

A number of Episcopal clergymen are in town attending the Deanery meeting which is being held in St. Matthew's church.

Mrs. Fred Girman, who spent the winter in New Hampshire, has returned and will spend the summer with the Misses Campbell.

Rev. Jas. Wheeler has returned to his pastoral duties here.

Mr. Wm. Buckley spent a day of last week in Kingston.

Mr. Will smallwood left on Monday morning for Lynfield, Mass.

Mr. Jas. McLeod has gone to Manchester, U. S. A.

Wm. D. Carter, Esq., Indian Superintendent of Richibucto, visited the Miramichi reserves last week and found things in first-class condition.

At Eel Ground he visited the school and examined the scholars in their different studies and was pleased with the progress they were making.

He was pained on driving back to Newcastle to meet a number of Indians who had been to town and were the worse of liquor. He instructed the Indian constable to endeavor to find the parties who sold them spirits and prosecute them to the full extent.—Advocate.

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