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Cost of the War in Voluntary Contributions. The financial cost to the nation of the South African war is not fully measured by the amount of the bills charged against the national exchequer, tremendous as those bills are. Colonel Gildea in his recently published book, entitled "For King and Country," gives a record of funds and philanthropic work in connection with the war, which shows that besides the sums debited against the nation in its Parliamentary budget, the war cost Great Britain more than \$30,000,000. The extent of the charity of the British people may be judged from the following figures, representing the amounts subscribed for various ends:—Widows and orphans, wives and families, £2,930,538; sick and wounded, hospitals, etc., £750,000; disabled officers and men, convalescent homes, etc., £278,544; extra comforts, etc., £219,385; various funds, equipment, £381,050; India, British dominions beyond the seas, £224,803; refugees, etc., £309,288; miscellaneous, £33,383; grand total, £5,126,994. This sum is exclusive of amounts, expended on various objects, of which Colonel Gildea says no particulars can be given, but which, with Strathcona's Horse, cannot be less than £1,000,000. Colonel Gildea says that Rudyard Kipling's poem, "The Absent-minded Beggar" brought no less than a total of £350,000 on behalf of sufferers by the war.

Citizen Soldiers. Lord Dundonald, Commander-in-Chief of the military forces in Canada, has expressed a high opinion of the value of citizen soldiers—that is of men who have had little experience in the way of military training—if only they have been practised in marksmanship. The Commander-in-Chief recognizes the rifle in the hands of efficient marksmen as the most effective means of defensive warfare. But the citizen soldier, however good a marksman he may be, will need able and intelligent leadership in order to efficiency in actual warfare. Lord Dundonald accordingly lays special emphasis on two things, the training of citizens to effective use of the rifle, and the thorough training of officers. It is quite possible for citizens to become expert with the rifle, but it is a matter of training and practise. Marksmen cannot be improvised on the battlefield, and practice alone will produce them. Lord Dundonald does not ignore the importance of drill in developing soldierly qualities, but the really essential thing is marksmanship, and where it is impossible to have everything it is best to choose what is essential. In practice he believes in snapshots at a disappearing mark, as this is the nearest approach to shooting under active service conditions. But with all citizen soldiers the officers, both commissioned and non-commissioned, are all important. They must be trained to the highest point of efficiency and must possess all the intelligence possible. They will then be the skeleton upon which the rank and file, whose avocations prevent them acquiring perfect training, can be formed.

Crops in the West. The prospect as to the harvest in Manitoba and the Territories, according to the general tenor of reports received, is highly encouraging. Some are so sanguine as to expect that the great crop of last year will be exceeded, but that certainly admits of reasonable doubt. It will be a great thing for the country if the harvest of 1902 shall prove to be not much inferior to that of 1901. Many of the new settlers who, having begun without capital, have been struggling along under heavy disabilities, would be fairly placed upon their feet by another such harvest, while for the country at large it would mean a continuance and enhancement of the present prosperous conditions. The acreage of wheat in Manitoba is said to be about 20,000 greater this year than last year and the acreage in the Territories about 80,000 greater, or 100,000 acres more in all. If the yield per acre should equal that of last year, this would mean an addition of from 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 bushels to the whole crop. The wheat crop of Manitoba last year slightly exceeded 50,500,000 bushels and that of the Territories was about 12,800,000, a total yield of about 63,300,000 bushels. While the outlook is at

present writing very favorable, there are contingencies still to be reckoned with. The crop is not yet quite out of danger from hailstorms and frost, and there is besides the possibility of a bad harvest season. The crop outlook in Ontario is also very good. In the Niagara district the fruit crop appears to be at least a good average. Apples, which were last year almost a total failure, are this year an abundant crop, and the prospect in respect to peaches and grapes is said to be quite satisfactory. The grain crop has also turned out well and though some damage has been suffered from an excess of rain, this has been favorable to the pastures so that conditions for the dairying industry have been remarkably favorable. The good prospects in respect to the crops have stimulated business. Wholesale trade in Toronto and other distributing centres is reported to be brisk, considering the season of the year, and there are general preparations for a heavy turnover of fall goods.

Sir Liang Chen Tung. Sir Liang Chen Tung, the newly appointed Chinese ambassador to the United States is described as being physically strong and stalwart, six feet in height, and a splendid figure in his dark blue silk jacket and his flowing lavender colored silk robes. The Ambassador was lately in Montreal in company with Prince Tsia Chen, cousin to the Emperor of China, who was sent to England to represent China at the Coronation. Sir Liang Chen Tung received an English education at Harvard University, and having spent eight years in the United States a student and three years more as Secretary to the Chinese Ambassador at Washington, he may be presumed to have a pretty good knowledge of the country, its institutions, its people and their modes of thought and life, as well as a very thorough acquaintance with the English language. The name of the minister to whom Liang Chen Tung was secretary was Chung Yen How. For three years—from 1886 to 1889—according to a statement made by Sir Liang to a Montreal interviewer—this gentleman served his government with ability. Then he was recalled, and having progressive ideas, there was a serious unpleasantness with the Government, and "something happened to him." Afterwards, Sir Liang Chen Tung was secretary to the Board which formulated the peace between China and Japan. Sir Liang knows England well and was knighted by Queen Victoria. In regard to the situation in China at the present time, His Excellency said that there was a certain number of progressionists in the country, but that they could not do a great deal with four hundred millions of people who had no sympathy with modern ideas. There were many features of western civilizations which he would gladly see introduced in China, but the party of progress must be patient, since the people must be educated up to modern ideas and that was a slow process. Sir Liang intimated that his contact with the life of the western nations had not made him a Christian, but he looked upon his attendance at church and Sunday School in his student days as "good discipline." As to the future, His Excellency thought that in the course of time China would introduce reforms which would bring her up to the level of modern nations. The travelled and educated classes were growing in numbers; the government itself was instituting a series of elementary schools; and all the signs pointed to advance. Any man who had travelled, as he had done, must, of course, desire reforms, but in China one must move softly. You could not get your reform by act of parliament. The agencies he had mentioned might and would be established slowly, and these would have a wonderful effect.

Justin McCarthy on Prime Minister Balfour. A recent number of the New York Outlook contained an article by Mr. Justin McCarthy, M. P., in reference to Arthur James Balfour, the present Prime Minister of Great Britain. The article is the first of a series from the same pen, which will deal with John Morely, James Bryce, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Henry Labouchere, Sir William Vernon Harcourt and other noted Parliamentarians. Mr. McCarthy's long experience in Parliament, his genial qualities, his ability to appreciate the strong and good points of political opponents as well as of political friends,

and the lucidity and charm of his style constitute an abundant guarantee of a most interesting series of articles. Something of special interest of course attaches to the initial article because of the increased prominence into which Mr. Balfour has now come as the successor of Lord Salisbury in the Premiership. The article at all events is a most readable one, not only in so far as it has to do with Mr. Balfour, but also because of the interesting glimpses which it gives of parliamentary life and of the relations of men and parties in the House of Commons. Mr. McCarthy's politics are of course not at all Mr. Balfour's politics, and the parties and policies with which the present Premier has been identified do not accordingly inspire him with admiration. But Mr. McCarthy has no difficulty in finding admirable qualities in Mr. Balfour, qualities both of head and heart. Alluding to his period of service as Chief Secretary for Ireland, in which Mr. Balfour was chief executor of a policy extremely obnoxious to the Irish Nationalists, Mr. McCarthy says: "Balfour, it should be said, was never, even at that time, unpopular with the Irish National party. We all understood quite well that his own heart did not go with the sort of administrative work which was put upon him; his manners were always courteous, agreeable and graceful; he had a keen, quiet sense of humor, was on good terms personally with the leading Irish members and never showed any inclination to make himself needlessly or wantonly offensive to his opponents." Mr. Balfour has attained his present high position in the administration of affairs, Mr. McCarthy thinks, not because he was particularly ambitious for leadership, but rather because of the "successive events which brought that place within his reach and made it necessary for him to accept it." Naturally, a man endowed with such gifts and cleverness as Mr. Balfour possesses, having chosen to enter the arena of politics, must have had some ambition to win recognition therein and make his influence felt, but he did not give to onlookers the impression of being the pushing, self-seeking kind of man who is sufficiently familiar in public life. In this as in many other respects Balfour stands in striking contrast with the only man who could have been considered as his rival in respect to the Premiership, Mr. Chamberlain, who "is always 'Pushful Joe.'" One gathers, however, from Mr. McCarthy's sketch, as well as from other sources, that it is a certain lack of the "pushful" element that stands between Mr. Balfour and the highest achievements. He is a man of great gifts and excellent qualities. While he possesses a philosophical cast of mind and a taste for literature and authorship, he does not lack ability in dealing with practical affairs. He is a vigorous thinker, a graceful and effective speaker, he is resourceful and tactful, courteous, graceful and kind hearted. And yet withal he appears to lack something of that intense sense of reality, that strong and positive conviction that life is worth living and that there is that in a man's relations to the universe which demands the most strenuous endeavor of which he is capable—something indeed of that without which even Gladstone, with all his wonderful endowments, could not have been the tremendous force which he was in the political and moral life of his time. It is just this essential note of deep earnestness that Mr. Balfour seems to lack. Not of course that he is a mere dreamer or dilettante, or that he is not measurably earnest and sincere in all he does, but that he does not give the impression of a man who is throwing himself fully and without reserve into his work. Is there a future before Mr. Balfour as Prime Minister? There will be difficulties within his own party. Mr. Chamberlain is perhaps content for the present to accept Mr. Balfour as leader, but there are the ambitions of the Chamberlain party to be reckoned with. If Balfour should accept a peerage, that would leave Mr. Chamberlain leader of the Government in the House of Commons, and that might "satisfy his ambition and give his pushful energy work enough to do." But there is difficulty along that line, for the country has become tired of "having a Prime Minister removed from the centre of active life and hidden away in the enervating atmosphere of the House of Lords." But in Mr. McCarthy's opinion, the present Conservative administration cannot for very long continue to breast the rising tide of opposition. For his varied and brilliant powers he admires Mr. Balfour, and he acknowledges the charm of his genial and graceful manners but does not "believe him capable of maintaining the present administration against the rising force of a Liberal reaction."