

WAR INEVITABLE.

Opinion of Mr. Allen, the Outlander Representative.

(Toronto Globe.)

"War between Great Britain and the Transvaal is, in my opinion, inevitable. From private information which I received tonight from London no other solution is possible." This was the startling assertion made by Mr. J. Davis Allen to a Globe reporter at the Queen's hotel last evening. Mr. Allen is an Englishman who has been a resident of the Transvaal for a number of years. He has always been prominent in upholding the cause of the Outlanders, and has made a close study of the conditions prevailing in the South African republic. He is visiting Canada as the representative of the Imperial South African Association, organized for the purpose of maintaining the supremacy of Great Britain in that portion of the world. Mr. Allen divides his time between the Transvaal, London and Cape Town, and is thus enabled to keep in touch with the currents of public opinion in these important centres. During his present trip he has visited Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa. His presence at the capital at the time when the important Transvaal resolutions were presented to the House of Commons and Senate was influential in securing the unanimous and enthusiastic adhesion of Canada's legislators to the cause of the Outlanders.

MR. ALLEN ON THE SITUATION.

Mr. Allen was shown the cable despatch which appeared in the Globe yesterday afternoon giving an outline of the situation as it appeared in England. He confirmed those portions of it which referred to existing conditions in the Transvaal and said:—

"The situation is one which must cause anxiety to all who are concerned for the welfare of British subjects in the Transvaal. These live in dread of being compelled to take up arms on behalf of the republic. They are leaving the country as fast as they can get away, and are rushing towards British territory. The exodus is likely to continue, and Johannesburg in particular will be rapidly depopulated. The Outlanders in that city will be in a pitiable plight when actual hostilities begin. The town is surrounded by mountains, and upon which forts have lately been built, and these have been fully supplied with the most modern guns. The outlanders are between the devil and the deep sea at present. If they stay where they are they will be compelled to endure hardships and disabilities suffered by no Britons in any other part of the world. If they leave, they must forsake their business and home interests, which constitute the chief tie binding them to the country."

Outlanders in a Majority.

"How are the parties divided as regards numbers?" was asked.

"No thorough official census has ever been taken in the Transvaal," replied Mr. Allen. "The Government some years ago made a so called census. They announced that the total white population was 247,000 and of these it was claimed that more than one half were Dutch, the balance being chiefly British. From estimates made by officials of the British Government the total white population stands at 160,000, and the number of Outlanders is placed at 90,000. This would indicate that the Outlanders were in the majority. The Kaffirs, or black men, who are bitterly hostile to the Boers, number between 700,000 and 800,000. They are not to be considered, however, as a factor in the situation. In the event of a war taking place one of the heaviest tasks of the British Government would be to maintain treaty obligations by keeping the Kaffirs in subjection and preventing them from attempting to massacre the Boers. Fully one tenth of any British force sent into that country would be required for this purpose alone."

THE OUTCOME OF WAR.

"In the event of war, what is the probable outcome?"

"There can, of course, be only one result. Great Britain will win, but only after a long and severe struggle. The Boers are not as they were twenty years ago. They have over 15,000 men, well trained, well armed and prepared for an active campaign. And numbers do not furnish a true indication of their strength. For many years past the Transvaal Government has been importing German and other foreign skilled artillery men and instructors under the guise of civil service men. These have been quietly working until the army of the republic has been brought to a condition not surpassed by many more pretentious countries."

"The Outlanders in the Transvaal might

be organized into a splendid army, numbering perhaps 30,000, to assist Great Britain, but this would be very difficult, as they have for the past three years been forbidden to carry arms. Any attempt to enlist their services would be instantly followed by rigorous measures on the part of the Boer Government. In time of war all who remain in Johannesburg will be held as hostages, and their future will depend upon the attitude they assume towards the cause of the republic."

BACKED BY ORANGE FREE STATE.

"Will the Transvaal secure the aid of other countries?"

"I cannot but believe that Kruger has been assured of the active support of the Orange Free State. Otherwise it is impossible to understand why he defies the Imperial Government. He evidently thinks that he can obtain the assistance of other countries and thereby force Great Britain to lose her control of South Africa. The Orange Free State has an army of 20,000 men in fine condition, and will prove to be a powerful ally. The strategic position of this State will be of vast importance as it lies between Cape Colony and the Transvaal, and its troops, co-operating with those of the republic, will be able to put up a strong fight against the British forces."

"What is the strength of the British force in South Africa?"

"At present the total strength amounts to 14,000 men, including the troops en route from England. These are distributed between Natal and Cape Colony, the majority being assigned to the latter. They are being continually reinforced, and by the end of the year many thousands more will be massed in South Africa. The troops are splendid fighting men, and regiments from home include some of Britain's finest soldiers."

ORIGIN OF THE DISPUTE.

Mr. Allen referred to the troubles which have given rise to the tension now existing. He said the Volksraad was composed of 28 members, all Boers. The Outlanders had agitated for representation in that body, but had been denied even the franchise. The proposals of Sir Alfred Milner were to the effect that the number of members be increased to 35, and that the additional seven members be elected by the Outlanders, who should be given the franchise for that purpose. President Kruger and the Volksraad had rejected this, as they pretended to fear that their control of their own affairs would be wrested from them.

Continuing, Mr. Allen said:—"No one has challenged the independence of the Transvaal. That has been guaranteed by the Imperial opinions regarding the meaning of independence. Great Britain believes that the Transvaal should be maintained as a separate self governing community in the family of South African States. Kruger interprets it to mean the continuation of the present monopoly of power enjoyed by himself and a minority of the population."

"Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his recent speech on this subject in the House of Commons made a fine point by way of comparison. He said that the Boers would be most effectively protected by conceding equal rights to all white men. That principle had given to the French Canadians their present large share of political rights and privileges and to himself the premiership. The fact is that when ever you find a community of Britons owning the soil of any country and paying the greater portion of the revenue they are wont to demand access on reasonable terms to full citizenship."

THE RIGHT TO INTERFERE.

Great Britain were forced to interfere in the affairs of the Transvaal, Mr. Allen said, on account of her position in Africa. In the first place, she was the suzerain power and was under obligation to protect all classes of the population. She was the final court of appeal for the hearing of grievances. In the second place, Great Britain had long been recognized as the paramount power in that region, and was, therefore, above the powers and responsibilities of any individual Government. Her obligation was primarily to maintain peace and order in the country. In the case of disagreement between two States the question must be submitted to Great Britain and she must provide the remedy.

Such a disagreement had arisen by reason of Kruger's persistent misrule, setting the British and the Dutch by the ears in the Transvaal. There would be less reason for interference were it not that the discontent had spread to other parts of South Africa, constituting a standing menace to the peace of the world. Great Britain was bound in justice to all the States to call upon President Kruger to abate the nuisance which was rampant in the district under his immediate control."

Mr. Allen is greatly pleased with the support which Canada, in common with the rest of the empire, has given to the cause of the Outlanders. The resolutions passed by the Dominion Parliament will, he says, have great weight. Branches of the Imperial South African Association are being organized in Canada, embracing in their membership the leading public men in each city. The object is to disseminate authentic information and to create a well informed body of Canadian public opinion regarding South Africa questions of Imperial concern. Canadian opinion is considered important, because this country is the only portion of the empire where two peoples of different race have learned to dwell in peace and harmony. It is her Imperial duty to teach this lesson to the British and Dutch in South Africa.

Mr. Allen will remain in the city for some days. He will probably be asked to deliver an address before the Board of Trade upon the Transvaal question.

Britain's Latest Battleship.

LONDON, Aug. 13.—At the moment the Emperor William was telling Representative Foss that the best peace conference is a strong navy plans had just passed by the British Admiralty for an entirely new class of war ship.

Great interest is taken in the new vessel, which was designed by Sir William White, Director of Naval Construction, who has given a representative of the Associated Press the following particulars:—

"We believe she will be the greatest triumph in naval architecture, both for speed and fighting. She will cost, ready for sea, about a million and a quarter; her speed will be a knot in excess of any British battleship, and her guns, turrets, torpedo tubes, nets and booms will embody ideas which experience and experiment have proved far beyond anything yet attempted in this or any other country. Her guns will be generally of smaller calibre than those of the Bulwark, now building. She will be the longest and broadest war ship ever laid down in a government dock yard, while her draught will be shallow. Her breadth is designated to attain the maximum steadiness under fire, and from her new steam gear very excellent results are certain."

Forward will be circular tops mounted with rapid fire guns. Her total armament will be fifty two guns. The details as to their calibre for the present must be kept secret. Six torpedo tubes will complete her equipment.

Her protection of Harveyized steel will be less than on the ships now building. The Spanish American war directed our attention to coal capacity, and nothing will be wanting in that respect. Her displacement will be thirteen thousand tons. The new vessel, which will be laid down in November, at Devonport, immediately after the Bulwark is off the slip, should be ready within a year. She will be the nearest approach yet attained to a perfect combination of the fighting capacity of a battle ship with the mobility of a cruiser of that type advocated by one of the highest naval authorities in the world, Captain Mahan."

ACCIDENT AT FAIRVILLE.—Fairville station was the scene of an accident about 10-30 this morning that may result fatally. John Bosence a fireman, was working on his engine near the station when the water glass exploded and pieces of the glass were sent flying about the cab with great force. Some of the pieces of glass struck Bosence in the back penetrating to the lungs and cutting him badly. Dr. McFarlane of Fairville and Christie were summoned and rendered the necessary aid but it was feared at noon that he would not recover. He was removed to the hospital.

HARDWARE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS.—At a meeting of the Maritime Hardware Association held at Digby yesterday the following officers were elected:—President, W H Thorne, St John; vice president, A M Bell, Halifax; secretary treasurer, J J Barry, St John; executive committee, Messrs S Hayward, P Carmichael and Thomas McAvity of St John and W F Robertson, W C Brine and Edward Stairs of Halifax.

MORE BIG TROUT.—Joseph I. Noble, and Joseph H. Noble made a good haul at Treadwell's lake early today. They succeeded in landing six speckled beauties, the aggregate weight of which, is 15 pounds. The fish are nearly of a size, and are on exhibition in a Germain street window.

Freddie—If a gambler is a man who bets in Wall st., what is a financier?

Cobwigger—He's the fellow who takes the bet.—Judge.

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