HAS THE KEY TO LADYSMITH.

GENERAL WAR NEWS.

Buller in an address to his troops, after landing safely on the south side of the Tugela River, told them that he held the key to Ladysmith, which town he hoped to enter within a week.

He also read to them the Queen's compliment on the accomplishment of their arduous march.

Meanwhile a long train of ambulances, from Spion Kop, containing British wounded, is entering Spearman's Camp.

Dispatches tell which brigades suffered the most severe losses in the fighting beyond the Tugela River, but give no hint as to the total casualties.

French reconnoitered beyond Colesberg, in Cape Colony, but encountering heavy Burgher forces was driven back. He learned, however, that the Boers had been strongly re-enforced in that district.

The movement of Colonel Kelly-Kenny, in taking Thebus, is regarded as important. He is acting in conjunction with Generals Gatacre and French, who are on either side of him. A combined movement of some sort is believed to be developing.

Buller Tells His Troops They'll Be There in a Week.

TRAIN OF WOUNDED.

Long Lines of Ambulances Winding Into British Camp.

CAPE COLONY MOVE.

Kelly-Kenny, Gatacre and French Display Activity.

SITUATION SUMMARIZED.

Kelly-Kenny's Movement in Cape Colony Becoming Important.

BY MILTON V. SNYDER.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

London, Wednesday, Jan. 31.—(Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company.)—The most important news of the war received in the past twenty-four hours is that Colonel Kelly-Kenny, with a column of the Sixth Division, has seized Thebus Station, west of Steynsburg and on the line running to Rosmead Junction.

Thus another link has been formed in the chain which is being extended along the line of the Orange Free State border. Kelly-Kenny now is holding a half-way post between the forces of General French and General Gatacre.

The country north of Thebus is very difficult, but the occupation of the village threatens the west flank of the Boer position at Stormberg. Apart from the appearance of Colonel Kelly-Kenny in north Cape Colony, there are other indications that General Roberts has made up his mind that for the present at least General Buller cannot be re-enforced and that the advance into the Orange Free State is about to begin.

The commanders of two transports, carrying artillery and cavalry, which had been sent from Cape Town to Durban have received orders not to land the troops, but to return to Cape Town at once. A number of transports have arrived at Cape Town recently, but nothing is known of the disposition of the troops they carried, so it is possible that Roberts has sent re-enforcements to French and Gatacre in addition to the force under Kelly-Kenny.

The Daily Mail correspondent at Cape Town cables that Buller, addressing his troops on Monday, said that in his opinion the British troops had gained the key road to Ladysmith, where he hoped to be within a week. Obviously the impression conveyed is that there is to be a fresh advance upon Ladysmith and a fresh crossing of the Tugela; but it is difficult to find any reasons for expecting success after the recent heavy repulse of the British at Spion Kop. Had large re-enforcements reached Buller he might have renewed the attack, but no such re-enforcements so far as known have arrived in Natal.

Lyttleton's Brigade.

One fact which seems to bear out the theory that Buller is not ready to give up the hope of reaching Ladysmith by going around the Boer right to the westward of Potgieter's Drift is contained in a dispatch stating that Lyttleton's brigade is still on the north bank of the Tugela. Dundonald, about whose mounted brigade there has been some anxiety, according to the same dispatch, reached the south bank of the Tugela Saturday.

Considerable criticism has been aroused recently by the charge that the sights of the rifles being issued to the militia and volunteers going to South Africa are defective. Government officials at the Woolwich Arsenal made experiments and found that the charges were only too true. They have decided that new sights must be supplied.

From the official report it is clear, however depressed the members of the other military departments may be by the reverses and defective state of the armament, the Ordnance Department, at least, retains its cheerfulness and sense of humor, as the report indicates that by allowing for temperature, force of wind and aiming on the average at 6 feet clear of a Boer, it may be possible with a Lee-Metford rifle to hit him.

Lord Rosebery's fiery speech in the House of Lords yesterday, attacking the Salisbury Government and policy, has stirred up quite a sensation in political circles. It is taken in some quarters to mean that the speech was part of a carefully thought-out plan and a fixed resolve, and meant that if the downfall of the present Government is to come, Rosebery is ready to accept the burden of the Premiership.

RAZING KIMBERLEY.

Boers Send 380 Shells Into the Besieged City.

Kimberley, Friday, Jan. 26.—The wholesale bombardment which lasted all day yesterday was resumed to-day. The Boers sent 380 shells into all parts of Kimberley. There were several casualties, including a woman and child. The favorite target appears to have been the hospital. A shrapnel shell exploded close to a hearse which was proceeding to the cemetery, and a shell burst in the cemetery during the funeral.

MORE COFFEE FACTS.

Study the Question Yourself.

"When the doctor said 'no more coffee,' I was dismayed, for as an ardent lover of coffee and a crank in the matter of its preparation, I had grown to believe that life was not worth living without it, but the dull stupidity and the almost daily headache so interfered with my profession (literature) that I was compelled to seek the doctor's advice.

"I saw an improvement from the start, but missed my morning beverage and felt a great lack. It was at the home of a friend and Postum apostle, Mrs. [illegible] of Lonsdale, that I tasted my first Postum. Her family had sworn by it a year or more, and declared themselves, from the least to the greatest, benefited by its use.

"I was surprised to find it really palatable, and determined that I could improve on it myself. I purchased a box, and as we all do, on the first trial, made a lamentable failure of it, through insufficient boiling, and the Postum was joked away on an upper shelf, until the oft-repeated newspaper statements made me determine to try it again, with long boiling.

"I took twenty-five minutes to prepare it, about ten minutes to bring it up to a boil, and then allowed it to boil steadily for fifteen minutes, and from the first sip I was enthusiastic over the new beverage, and even wanted a second cup. It has never pailed upon me, morning or night. Nothing could induce me to go back to the berry coffee.

"The change Postum has wrought in me seems little short of miraculous. For the first time in many years, I am really well, my color has freshened, headache has not visited me for many weeks, and my ability for work has returned with all its old zest. I shall never cease to be grateful for what I feel is a remarkable cure due to nothing more than Postum Food Coffee, in place of the oriental berry.

"Sincerely yours," Mrs. R. B. Tallman, Centredale, R. I.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

London, Tuesday, Jan. 30.—(Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company.)—The Daily Mail publishes this dispatch from its special correspondent.

Cape Town, Tuesday.—General Buller yesterday read the following message from the Queen to General Warren's force:

"I must express my admiration for the troops' conduct during the past trying week, especially those regiments that you specially, and for the accomplishment of your arduous march."

General Buller said to the men that they ought not to think that because they had retired from their position that all their work was of no avail; that in his opinion they had gained the key to the road to Ladysmith, in which he hoped to be within a week.

General Buller then called for cheers for the Queen, which were heard for miles around.

BY AN EXPERT.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, Jan. 30.—General Sir Redvers Buller has propounded an enigma which seems as hard to tackle as the Boer barriers to his progress to Ladysmith. In one breath he lightly dismisses the failure of Warren's men to hold a position the abandonment of which they themselves were evidently inclined to look upon as reducing their efforts of the previous week to naught, and in the next declares that they have gained and presumably still hold the key of the road to Ladysmith.

At the same time, news has been received that Colonel De Villebois-Mareuil, the French officer who has been credited with the general direction of the recent campaign in Natal, had gone to Colesberg, near the Orange River, where, as late dispatches appear to indicate, preparations are being pushed forward for a British advance upon Bloemfontein.

De Leyds's reference to Lord Roberts and Colonel De Villebois-Mareuil's appearance at Colesberg together form a basis on which may be erected a vast structure of speculation.

More than that, he expresses the hope of relieving the beleagured garrison within a week.

Either General Buller must be convicted of "talking through his hat," or there is at present in progress some move of which the outside world is in entire ignorance.

Can there be any coredation between General Buller's enigmatic utterances and the strange words to which Doctor Leyds, the Transvaal agent, gave expression in Berlin on Monday last?

"While we are talking here," said Doctor Leyds, "it may be that a decisive battle is being fought there, for I presume Lord Roberts has withdrawn the troops from around Ladysmith, and is massing them for a formidable coup."

LONG TRAIN OF WOUNDED.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

London, Wednesday, Jan. 31.—(Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company.)—Cabling from Spearman's Camp, Saturday, the correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says:

"There has been a long train of ambulances arriving at the Spearman's Camp field hospitals with wounded. The Lancashire Brigade sustained the heaviest losses.

"There was no panic. The troops retired from the hill in good order. This morning several men were shot in returning to the positions held before they carried Spion Kop.

"Thornycroft's Mounted Infantry and the Third Battalion of the King's Royal Rifles lost heavily. The men of the Imperial Light Infantry received their baptism of fire, shooting and killing the Boer marksmen and snipers.

"Sergeant Mason of Thornycroft's Mounted Infantry had a duel with Boers, who drilled five holes through his helmet. Sergeant Mason caught three Boers creeping up behind him yesterday evening, with fixed sights.

"One he instantly killed and then another. The third took shelter, and for half an hour they exchanged shots. The Boer hit him in the shoulder, but Mason returned the compliment, and at the next shot killed his antagonist."

ANOTHER CASUALTY LIST.

London, Jan. 30.—A dispatch has been received from Lord Roberts, dated to-day, saying there is no change in the situation in South Africa.

General Buller reports that the casualties to the noncommissioned officers and men in the two actions of January 20 and January 21 were:

Seventeen killed, 233 wounded and six missing.

The Associated Press learns that General Lyttleton's Brigade is still in its original position at Potgieter's Drift, showing that part of General Buller's forces are still north of the Tugela River.

HOLDING TROOPS BACK.

London, Jan. 31, 4 a. m.—It is not known that the Cabinet devoted much of its discussions on Saturday to the mobilization of the fleet. Nothing was settled except that, until further security to the home coasts has been obtained by naval preparations, the Eighth Division shall not be sent to South Africa.

On Monday the Admiralty issued orders that the Channel Squadron instead of leaving Portland this week for Gibraltar, as previously directed, shall assemble on February 5 off Eddystone and proceed to Bantry for a fortnight's exercise off the Irish Coast, thus keeping in home waters for a time.

This decision to delay the Eighth Division at a time when re-enforcements are so urgently required may mean only that transports are not yet available and that the division will embark when the shipping is ready.

The mobilization of reserve warships, if such a course shall be determined upon, would be of the utmost importance. There is nothing in the intelligence possessed by the public to cause the Cabinet's prolonged discussion of this matter, and the inference is that the fleet may be mobilized as a general warning to other countries to keep their hands off the Transvaal situation, or the Ministry may have definite knowledge that the neutral Powers purpose to take some advantages elsewhere while England is busy in South Africa.

One thing is certain—ten thousand men all ready to go to South Africa are detained for reasons of which the public has no knowledge.

There is talk of forty-seven military battalions being embodied. These are all of the militia not previously warned.

A sharp lookout is being kept on volunteers for the various South African regiments. The Daily Chronicle says:

"Three suspicious characters were rejected by headquarters in one regiment Monday. Two were unmistakably of Boer origin. The third, whose English was faulty, had been a German officer."

Boers Moving Swiftly.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

London, Jan. 30.—(Copyright, 1900, by W. R. Hearst.)—The news contained in a dispatch from Spearman's Farm, that Lyttleton's brigade still occupies its original position at Potgieter's Drift, where it is probably being held by General Buller to form a rear guard for his retreat, gives no comfort to London.

Fresh consternation has been caused in military circles by a report that the Boers, instead of being satisfied with compelling Buller to recross to the south bank of the Tugela, have followed up their advantage by swiftly moving down from Colesberg to the road between Cheveley and Springfield in an attempt to cut off General Buller's line of retreat.

An ostentatious Boer dispatch declaring that Colonel Villebois-Mareuil has left Colesberg for Colesberg is published, but it is believed the Boers' chief strategist is burrowing to spring the latest Boer trap. An enormous Boer force is hastening east along the north bank of the Tugela.

The destination of this force is undoubtedly in the neighborhood of Colenso, and, taking into account the well-known habit the Boers have of leading or forcing the British into snares, the conclusion is arrived at that Buller has not yet seen the last of his attempt to reach Ladysmith.

DROVE FRENCH BACK.

Burghers at Colesberg Repulse a British Attack

Pretoria, Saturday, Jan. 27.—A dispatch from Colesberg, Cape Colony, says that Commandant Delarey reports that a large body of British advanced Thursday, January 25, and he attacked them, causing the British to retire after suffering severe loss. The Boer casualties were two men slightly wounded.

General Grobler reports heavy fighting since daybreak, the British in great force, endeavoring to surround the Boer positions; General Schoeman hastened to the assistance of General Grobler. General Schoeman returned this evening and reports that the British were repulsed and that the Boers maintained their positions. The Boer loss was four men slightly and one man severely wounded. The British loss is not known, but must be severe.

The bombardment of Kimberley continues.

The other Boer forces are reported quiet.

BRITISH ACCOUNT.

Rondsburg, Cape Colony, Friday, Jan. 26.—General French reconnoitered yesterday by Bastard's Nek, with a force of Hussars, Inniskillings, four guns of the Royal Artillery, mounted infantry, the Yorkshire, Wiltshire and portion of the Essex regiments.

Turning to the northeast, he approached the Boer position at Rietfontein, nine miles beyond Colesberg on the wagon-bridge road, which the enemy have been fortifying with a view of falling back when they evacuate Colesberg.

Cautiously approaching, General French shelled the enemy, who replied with artillery and infantry fire.

The British, who were well protected, suffered very little. An officer and nine men were wounded, one of the latter of whom has since died, and three men are missing. As the Boers were found in great force, confirming the reported re-enforcement, and in a strong position, General French discontinued the attack and returned to camp.

SHOULD ADMIT DEFEAT.

Berlin Press Says England Cannot Hold Out.

Berlin, Jan. 30.—The British defeats in South Africa continue to engross public attention. General von Bogushawsky, who is a leading military writer, said to-day to the correspondent of the Associated Press:

"What strikes military men as most unfavorable is the total lack of topographical knowledge among the British officers. Under analogous conditions, for example, our general staff would long ago have studied the topography of Spion Kop. We admit the bravery of the soldiers, but utterly condemn the incapacity of their leaders.

"As for Great Britain's prestige, she must be counted a world Power so long as her fleet is intact, but the reputation of her army is absolutely gone. Moreover, it is quite certain that the British Navy has failings which will appear the first time there is a serious collision. For instance, the naval guns are not up to requirements."

According to the private reports received here, the Cape Dutch are still joining the Boer forces.

The German press expresses the belief that Great Britain has about reached the end of her military resources, and would do well to acknowledge defeat and to conclude peace.

The Kreuz Zeitung, which attributes her reverses largely to the absence of compulsory military service, says:

"Among the most interesting results of the South African campaign is the much-denied truth that the worth of nations is weighed in war's balance, and England is already in the midst of catastrophe."

The Deutsche Tages Zeitung says that it is evident that not only General Warren, but General Buller's whole force, has been defeated on the Tugela. This it calls the "beginning of the end."

THIRTEEN WERE PRESENT.

Architects Avoided Unpleasantness by Having Two Tables.

The prejudice against the number 13 nearly spoiled a dinner of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects at the Mercantile Club last night. When the dinner was ready it was found that exactly thirteen members were on hand. Each one of the thirteen hastened to explain that he was not at all superstitious—but it did make him feel uncomfortable to think of being one of thirteen at a table.

After much discussion, some one, whose appetite was stronger than prejudice, suggested that the matter could be arranged by having two tables instead of one. The others, hungry, also, by this time, were entirely willing, and were soon enjoying the spread. Later two more members of the chapter arrived, and scoffed mightily at what they called the superstition of those already at the table, but admitted that they might have done the same thing. Those present were: Louis Mullgardt, M. P. McArdle, F. C. Bonsack, Albert Kroll, Wm. B. Ittner, Charles A. Ramsey, John L. Wees, J. M. Dunham, John Beatty, C. W. Clark, R. C. Ferguson, W. S. Eames, Holmes Smith, T. C. Young, Robert W. Wash.

Farmers' Insurance Company.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 30.—The Arkansas State Farmers' Insurance Company of Texarkana has filed articles of incorporation with the Secretary of State.

PARLIAMENT FACES A CRISIS.

Failure of the War Results in a Torrent of Criticism of the Cabinet.

Hot Tilt Between the Opposition and Government Leaders in the Commons—Salisbury and Rosebery Speak.

BY AUBREY STANHOPE.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

House of Commons Gallery, London, Tuesday, Jan. 30.—(Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company.)—There was electricity in the air this evening when the Speaker took the chair at 4 o'clock sharp, which told of the fight to come.

A keen fight it was that came. Outside the House I had seen the crowds of people lined up in front of the entrance gate of Parliament Court, who had stood there for hours in the damp, keen cold, just for the sake of obtaining a glimpse of the best-known members.

The long hall, lined with white marble statues of famous English statesmen, held a crowded gathering waiting eagerly for access to the strangers' gallery.

The beautiful octagonal hall which forms the central point between the House of Commons and the House of Lords was alive with people, waiting for members, hoping for passes.

As for the lobby, otherwise the members of Parliament's gossip center, it was a great human beehive all aboz.

Inside the House the scene was more animated than can be fully described.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, looking drawn, as though from much anxiety, his usually pointed face more pointed than usual and his thin cheeks thinner, talked rapidly to Mr. George Wyndham and Mr. Gerald Balfour alternately. His never-failing orchid was a star-shaped one and white. It looked jaunty, but the wearer certainly did not.

Sir Richard Webster, stuck in the corner of the Government bench nearest to the door, said never a word to any one.

Lord George Hamilton sat next to Mr. Chaplin, owner of that famous horse Herminit.

Sir Matthew White Ridley's big form loomed up, and the characteristic eagle head of Mr. Goschen and the tall white beard of Mr. Jesse Collins were his neighbors.

Facing the Speaker, who was intoning a lot of very dry minutes, were the United States Ambassador and those of France and Turkey; Mr. Horace White of the United States Embassy; Count Albert Mensdorf of the Austrian Embassy; Lord Rawlinson, prince of private secretaries; Lord Ashbrook and others.

Opposition Leader Enters.

As the Speaker continued his preliminaries about new writs and other such uninteresting things, there suddenly rose a burst of cheering, which stopped him entirely. This was the arrival of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, late Secretary of State for War and to-day leader of the opposition.

Soon followed "Historious" Harcourt, of gigantic frame and massive head, with a nose almost rivaling that of Sir Richard Temple. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman had smiled and looked pleased and Sir William Harcourt took his applause as his due.

No more than five minutes later and there was another burst of applause. The two last-named had been from the opposition. The roar now came from the Government side, as in walked Mr. Balfour, tall, slight, dapper and well-dressed, with his small head, bald at the top and his hair curling at the sides and back. The statesman-golfer looked worn, like the Minister of the Colonies, but smiling, happy and confident of mien.

Immediately Mr. Chamberlain joined him and he and Mr. Wyndham made up a trio in earnest conversation for some time.

Mr. Balfour had been chosen to receive Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's attack.

Members of the Irish party flitted about. Doctor Tanner, the irrepressible, delighted the House with a perfectly new style of French coiffure. He has just returned from Paris.

Mr. "Tay Pay" O'Connor was brimming over with things he had to tell. There was Mr. J. F. O'Brien, sallow and sinister-looking, and Mr. "Pat" O'Brien, who, it is said, was the one who advised soldiers to shoot their officers, and Mr. O'Keefe and Mr. O'Kelly and others.

They were all there, and proposed shaking the Government over Buller's defeat.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman certainly does not look like a man to lead a parliamentary opposition.

Attacks the Government.

When he rose, he grabbed at his tie and coat, a constant habit with him, and began his attack in mellifluous voice, but with a hesitating manner, made worse by constant references to his notes.

As regards the war, he said that so long as the enemy were in British territory, he would support the Government.

Mr. Balfour was busy in front of him, and on this began to take notes fast, coached by Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Wyndham.

Sir Henry Bannerman attacked the Government generally, and Mr. Chamberlain individually. He charged them with ignorance, incapacity and unpreparedness, and finally with not taking the advice of Sir William Butler, at which the opposition and the Irish party cheered uproariously. He quoted speeches by Mr. Balfour, going to show that he knew no more about the South African business than men in the street, and claimed that the Government were totally incapable.

When Mr. Balfour got up, he leaned his famous figure against the box upon which are still the marks where Gladstone used to thump it, crossed his legs and faced the door.

Every one who knows him saw that anger was in his eye. He began in a slow but rather rhetorical style, and after smiling leaning over the desk toward Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman in a viciously caustic way, he said that he understood that the opposition meant only to support the Government so long as the enemy were in British territory, and not until such time as the British arms were vindicated and the Queen's supremacy assured all over South Africa; "and," he blessed, "I am glad that you admit that, for the country will understand it, too."

Mr. Balfour was angry, but Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, on this, also flew into a temper. He arose, and leaning over the desk, repeated an involved statement, which was a repetition of what he had previously said, so worded that the construction placed upon it by Mr. Balfour might easily be deduced from it.

"Thanks," said Mr. Balfour, triumphantly. "You repeat what you said before."

"And if you remember," whipped back Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, "later in my speech I mentioned that the Queen's dominions should be supreme in South Africa."

There was more uproar as Mr. Balfour went on to admit that things had not gone on with the expected success, but said that no one could have anticipated the Boers' force.

Butler's Warning.

At this, both cries from the opposition and the Irish came out with: "What about Sir William Butler?"

Then Mr. Balfour turned upon his enemies, saying that he regretted very much the courtesy which they had shown, depending upon certain reports that Sir William Butler had sent letters telling of the strength of the Boers to the War Office, but that absolutely no such letters existed.

He denied that General Buller had expressed the opinion that the forces sent out were inadequate. On the contrary, General Buller held the common military opinion that the forces sent were quite sufficient. If the Government had asked Parliament last August, he continued, to authorize the dispatch of a large army, it would have been not only extremely bad diplomacy, but it probably would have been impossible to persuade Parliament of its necessity.

Replying to the direct question: "Did General Buller go to Natal purely in the exercise of his military discretion?" Mr. Balfour answered in the affirmative.

His speech ended by keeping the House in a constant laugh by giving comic examples of foresight, as demonstrated by the opposition.

One member of the opposing bench, he said, had written an article in a review, saying that neither the war nor preparation for war was necessary, and yet they accused him of not being prepared. Three prominent members of the opposition said in their speeches that the most undesirable thing just now was for their party to come into power, and yet the amendment proposed was a motion to turn the Government out of power.

He scored Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman heavily as having been three years Minister of War, while during those three years not one single improvement, not one single addition, had been made to the resources of war.

Whatever had been done, he said, had been done by the Conservatives, and he closed with the statement that the present Government would never rest until the Queen's supremacy was acknowledged in South Africa.

A few minutes later, Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice, brother of Lord Lansdowne, curiously enough arose to make a speech, bringing in his amendment and three-quarters of the members of the House paid him the compliment of trooping out and he was left trying to justify his position by giving an extensive dissertation upon Pitt and Fox. I left, firmly feeling the conviction that Mr. Balfour had got by far the best of the pretty severe and highly interesting encounter, and that the Government had nothing to fear.

The debate on the amendment may last for many days, and Mr. Chamberlain has yet to be heard from. He, too, was taking notes this evening, and he never was better or more brilliant in debate than when being attacked.

He did not stop to hear Lord Fitzmaurice's argument.

PREMIER SALISBURY AND ROSEBERY SPEAK.

London, Jan. 31.—The speech from the throne was as follows:

"My Lords and Gentlemen: The peace which had recently been broken in South Africa when last I addressed you has, unhappily, not been restored, but otherwise my relations with other states are friendly. In resisting the invasion of my South African colonies by the South African Republic and Orange Free State, my people have responded with devotion and enthusiasm.

"A bill will be introduced at an early date to give effect to the scheme of federation which has been adopted after most careful consideration by five of my Australian colonies.

"I have watched with cordial satisfaction the gradual development of my greater colonies into self-governing communities. I feel confident that the establishment of the great federation of Australia will prove advantageous not only to the colonies immediately concerned, but also to the Empire at large."

Reference is made to the colonial offers of assistance, the Samoan treaty and the plague and famine in India. The speech then continues:

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons: The estimates for the public service of the year will be laid before you. The provision for military expenditure must be largely increased on account of charge for military operations in South Africa. The experience of a great war must necessarily afford lessons of the greatest importance to the military administrations of the country. You will not, I am convinced, shrink from any outlay that may be required to place our defensive preparations on a level with the responsibilities which the possession of so great an Empire has laid upon us. At a time when several other nations are perfecting their naval preparations at the cost of increasing efforts and sacrifices, the solicitude with which you have provided for the efficiency of our navy and our coast defenses will assuredly not be relaxed."

The rest of the speech, recognizing that the time is not propitious for domestic reforms involving large expenditure, recommends amendments to the agricultural educational company, railway and accident laws and concludes:

"It appears that service in South Africa may have the effect of disfranchising those taking part in it, and you will be asked to sanction a measure by which this injustice will be prevented.

"I commend your deliberations at this anxious time to the blessing and guidance of Almighty God."

In the House of Lords.

The reading of the speech from the throne was closely followed. At its conclusion the joint session recessed, afterwards meeting in separate session.

When the House of Lords reconvened the Liberal leader in that body, the Earl of Kimberley, spoke. He said he was glad to learn that Great Britain's relations with other states were friendly. He added that he believed the terms could justly be applied to the relations with European Governments and the United States, and deprecated undue attention to the attacks of the foreign press. His lordship congratulated Lord Salisbury on his agreement with Germany, but strongly disapproved of the tone of Mr. Chamberlain's speeches. In this connection, however, he paid a warm tribute to the conduct of the soldiers in the field and to the loyalty of the British colonies.

The Earl said that although the moment was one of the deepest gravity, he would entirely abstain from criticising the conduct of the Generals. It was the duty of the Government to select men to conduct these operations, and it was their duty to support the Government. It was, therefore, unwise to criticise the Generals in these operations. He did not mean to imply that the Generals were not doing their utmost to fulfill their arduous duties, but the Government would be wise if it made every effort to prepare thoroughly for what might occur in the future.

Continuing, Lord Kimberley said:

"We might meet a period of disaster, and although our relations with the other Powers are friendly, it would be well to consider the possibilities of the future, and it would be well if the Government prepared for all eventualities and all dangers, and be ready with the means to surmount them. The Government does not seem to have been aware of the scale of preparations of the South Africa Republics."

Salisbury's Reply.

Lord Salisbury, in reply to the Earl of Kimberley, asserted that there was nothing in the stipulations of the conventions to limit and hinder the importation of arms and ammunition into the Transvaal through Lorenzo Marquez. Continuing, the Premier said:

"Why were we to know about the importation of arms? I believe that guns were introduced into the Transvaal in boilers and munitions of war in piano cases. We had a small secret service fund. If you want much information you must give much money. I consider the enormous amounts spent by other Governments, especially the Transvaal, which, I have heard on high diplomatic authority, spent ten[illegible] in a single year, and the small sums spent by England, make it impossible for us to have the omniscience attributed to us by Lord Kimberley. I am glad he has not pressed an immediate inquiry into the action of the military authorities at a time when our Generals in the field and many of those who could give the most valuable information are unable to appear. We should defer inquiry to a more convenient season."

Later the Premier admitted the deficiencies of the existing system, remarking that the Treasury had acquired a power which was not to the public benefit. He had not thought of looking into past history or examining the amount of blame to be attached to this or that Minister.

Not Free From Danger.

"It is," he said, "quite the right way of dealing with the present crisis to join together and exercise all our powers in extricating ourselves from a situation full of humiliation and not free from danger. I will not say that the danger may not have easily been exaggerated. Many a country has commenced a war with difficulties of the kind we experience. We have only to look at what the Northern States of America went through at the beginning of the Civil War to see how easy it would be to draw a mistaken inference from the reverses we have met at the outset. We have every ground to think that if we set ourselves heartily to work and exert all the undoubted instruments of the power we possess, we shall bring the war to a satisfactory conclusion. We have work which appeals to us as subjects of the Queen and as Englishmen, and it must throw in the shade all thoughts of party expediency."

Lord Salisbury then said he regretted that Lord Edmund Fitz-Maurice, in the House of Commons was about to bring this great issue into party controversy, adding that the only place where his action would meet with sympathy was in Pretoria.

"Our effort," the Premier continued, "must be to retrieve ourselves from the present situation, which cannot be allowed to last. We must concentrate our efforts. If we do not tame all the smaller passions into one great duty, we run the danger of convulsions, which will tarnish the Empire's luster and perhaps menace integrity."

Rosebery Speaks.

After Lord Salisbury had spoken, Lord Rosebery made a fiery speech, demanding of the Government what it was going to do, and adding that the country would shrink from no sacrifice which the burning emergency might demand.

Lord Rosebery spoke with great force and earnestness. He asked why the Premier made it so difficult for the man in the street to support his policy. The past conduct of the Government would come up for investigation some day, he hoped, adding, "We have the right to know if, before the crisis, the Intelligence Department supplied the Government sufficient information. If not, dismiss the department. If the Government possessed the information, their responsibility is heavy. I hope that when the time for the investigation arrives those who have served the Queen will be covered with such glory that the eyes of the investigators will be dazzled.

"I was appalled at the nature and style of Lord Salisbury's speech. We have now 120,000 men in South Africa, yet we are with difficulty holding our own. The attitude of foreign nations is declared as friendly. But that does not strike me as being so amicable as the word would imply. I deem it necessary to know what the Government is going to do. Lord Salisbury said the cause of our casualties was the smallness of the secret service fund in the British constitution.

"But what is the Government's duty? Some form of compulsory service must be introduced to meet the growing exigencies of the Empire and I am sure the nation will not shrink from either that or any other sacrifice to preserve the Empire's predominance. That we should not shrink from sending away vast masses of troops, situated as we are, in the center of a universe by no means friendly to us, without having a hint from the Government of the military measures it proposes taking to face the disasters we have met and the sacrifices we have made, is one of the most extraordinary features of the British constitution.

A Loftier Patriotism.

"I agree with Lord Salisbury that the country can carry this thing through in spite of all the impediments of men and methods which have shackled it in the past, but I venture to say it will have to be inspired by a loftier tone and truer patriotism than that shown by the Prime Minister."

The Government ought to have been aware of the importation of arms into the Transvaal and ought to have informed the Transvaal that unless it desisted it must result in Great Britain sending a large force to South Africa. We could not believe the Government was so ignorant of the preparations for the Transvaal, and they could not divest themselves of the responsibility.

Baron Balfour of Burleigh, said that the Jameson raid had closed the mouth of the Government and prevented it from protesting against the arming of the Transvaal. But, he added, the Government must have known armaments were accumulating to an extent unjustified by fears of another raid, and it was the duty of the Government to communicate on the subject with the Boer Government, but as the first step it ought to severely punish the raiders. The country had not reached a pass that if the Government appealed to it it would not have supported the Government in any preparations it thought necessary. He would do nothing to prevent the Government from carrying on the war to a successful conclusion.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, Secretary of State for War, followed. He said he was prepared to make a statement at a future date. The Government, he added, was not prepared and had excellent reasons for not pushing its arrangements further.

ROSEBERY'S STAND.

London, Jan. 30.—Lord Rosebery has notified the Executive Committee of the Scottish Liberal Association that he will not be a candidate for re-election as president of that organization. It is understood his action is in consequence of the recent meeting of the association at Aberdeen voting confidence in the Liberal leader in the House of Commons, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.

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IRISH NATIONALISTS UNITE THEIR FORCES.

London, Jan. 30.—All sections of the Irish Nationalists were absent from the opening session of Parliament, owing to their attendance at a meeting in committee-room No. 16, Mr. Timothy Harrington, member for the Harbour Division of Dublin, presided. Those in attendance included Messrs. Dillon, Healy and John Redmond and many of their followers.

Messrs. Harrington and Redmond urged that the time had come to restore unity in the ranks of the parliamentary representatives of Irish nationalism.

Mr. Redmond described the prestige of Great Britain as practically shattered, and said there seemed to be no better time for promoting union upon a sound and enduring basis, coupled with a policy of union in combat, and entire independence of all the English political parties. He then moved a resolution, declaring at an end the division of the Irish Nationalist representatives, and that henceforth they should act together as one united party.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

On Mr. Healy's motion three whips were elected for the reunited party.

Lobby gossip at Westminster this evening attaches more than usual importance to the meeting of the Irish Nationalists, inasmuch as the event formally ends the former alliance between the larger section of the Irish Nationalists and the supporters of Gladstone. To-day's reunion is based upon the principle that the united party must be "absolutely independent of all British parties."

One of the articles of the new agreement is that the first chairman is to be taken from the Parnell section, and there are many things which indicate the selection of John Redmond, whose amendment to the address from the throne will be as follows:

"That the war now being waged in South Africa is unnecessary and unjust and has already entailed grievous suffering, not only on the peoples of the South African Republics, but the people of the United Kingdom, and that the time has come when it should be brought to a close upon the basis of a recognition of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State."

It is assumed that whether Mr. Redmond is selected or not, the parliamentary tactics of the party will assume more of the combative character which he favors. Of the eighty Nationalist members, fifty-three were present at to-day's meeting.

Mr. Redmond made the following statement to a representative of the Associated Press:

"The crisis in Imperial affairs, the consequences of which no man can foresee, has caused a reunion in the Irish ranks. My resolution was accepted unanimously, chiefly because of the desire to enable Ireland to make herself felt, at this juncture, in pushing Irish reforms and in assisting the gallant South African Republics to maintain their independence. The first act of the reunited Irish will be to move an amendment to the address in favor of the Boers. This duty has been confided to me.

"I regard the reunion on Parnell's principles of independence as genuine. One question, that of the chairmanship, will not be settled for some days, but I think a unanimous selection will be made."

BLAIR WINS FIRST HONORS.

Harold Robinson Second in Parkville Oratorical Contest.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Parkville, Mo., Jan. 30.—In the oratorical contest to-night Herbert E. Blair, 1901, won first honors. His subject was "The Demagogue"; Harold M. Robinson, second honors, oration, "Subverted Justice." Mr. Blair will represent Park College in the State oratorical contest at Columbia on March 2.

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