

MAN MOST TALKED OF AS KITCHENER'S SUCCESSOR BEGAN LIFE AS PANTRY BOY



Sir William Robert Robertson.

LONDON, June 21.—No more remarkable career is recorded in the annals of the British army than that of Gen. Sir William Robert Robertson, chief of the British general staff, who appears to be the most likely choice to succeed Earl Kitchener as secretary of state for war and supreme head of Britain's forces on land.

Born at Wellbourne, Lincolnshire, fifty-seven years ago, of a humble Scotch family, the potential future leader of Britain's armies worked first as a pantry boy in a wealthy family in the neighborhood and later became a footman.

At the age of nineteen he enlisted as a private in the Sixteenth Lancers. In those days promotion from the ranks in the British army was a phenomenon, and young Robertson, moreover, entered the army with but little education.

He set himself about remedying his deficiencies, however, at the same time making it evident to his officers that he was the best soldier in his regiment.

His manner of winning promotion was typical of the man's whole career. There were no brilliant or spectacular feats of arms connected with it, but abundance of hard work, unrelenting purpose and steady plugging. Ten years after he entered the Lancers he was troop sergeant-major and had been recommended for a commission, which was given him finally in 1888, in the Third Dragoon Guards.

At twenty-nine consequently, he was a commissioned officer, but only a subaltern, about eight years older than the youngsters from Sandhurst and Aldershot who surrounded him. Twenty-nine is hopelessly old, by average standards, for a subaltern who hopes to win promotion; but Robertson said nothing and kept plugging.

Three years later his first chance came. In the Black Mountain expedition he was appointed railway transport officer and began to show his quality. He had put in much of his time in the preceding years acquiring a mastery of native Indian dialects such as few British officers

ever have possessed, and he was born with the faculty for organization. At the end of the Black Mountain expedition he was transferred to the intelligence department and sent to Simla for duty.

With more hard work he won promotion to captaincy at thirty-three. But he was still one of the oldest captains on the army list.

Then came the Chitral relief expedition, when Sher Afzal and Umpu Kabu rebelled against the Maharajah of Kashmir and shut up a little British force in the residency of Chitral. Robertson was detailed as field intelligence officer with Sir Robert Lowe's relief expedition. His knowledge of Indian dialects and his profound acquaintance with native manners and customs made him of great value.

Once during the expedition he narrowly escaped with his life from an ambush arranged by a treacherous Pathan guide, but he emerged from the expedition with the distinguished service order, a medal with clasps, and a mention in dispatches.

Shortly after his return from this campaign, Robertson was promoted to the rank of major and passed examinations for the staff college—the only officer on record to do so who had risen from the ranks.

He served as staff officer at the war office until the South African war, when, as an important unit of the quartermaster-general's office, he did more than any one else to get the troops into the field and keep them supplied and equipped there. He began to be recognized as a man who had the habit of getting things done.

A little later he was sent to the front with the intelligence department and was in the battles of Paardeburg, Poplar Grove, Dreifontain, winning a brevet lieutenant colonelcy, mention in dispatches and the queen's medal.

In 1906, Robertson was appointed assistant quartermaster general for the whole army, and promoted to the rank of colonel. In 1907, he was made brigadier general and sent to Aldershot, later to become commandant of the staff college, where his regime is still remembered and identified with sweeping reform and revivification of

INTEREST IN BATTLE WAS INTENSE HERE

Republican Extra Edition Eagerly Seized by Large Crowd, Which Does Not Wait for Boys to Peddle Papers on the Streets

Rumors that The Republican would issue an extra, carrying complete details in possession of the Associated Press of the battle between American cavalrymen and Carrancistas at Carrizal, brought upon the office a flood of news-hungry citizens, and kept the telephones ringing almost continuously. By 10:30, when the first papers reached the street, the crowd in front of The Republican had grown so eager that it deluged the lobby and fought for the privilege of buying the news.

Papers were torn. One man yanked a paper in two, and excused himself, saying, "Gimme half of it."

Not in many years has there been such intense interest in a news story in Phoenix. Previous Republican extra editions have created sales records, and have drawn great throngs, but never was an edition so avidly seized as this one.

The feeling in the crowd was that the incident of Carrizal, whoever prevailed, and whoever initiated the fray, was bound to lead to war. No other course could be foreseen for President Wilson, and there was much speculation concerning the manner in which Washington would receive the news.

A curious commentary on the local situation was seen in the way the young Mexican boys, employed as Republican newsies, handled the extra. About a dozen of them worked last night, just as hard to distribute the paper as did the American boys.

that entire organization. From there he went back to the war office as director of military training.

At the outset of the European war, Sir William, then a major general commanding a division, was appointed quartermaster general of the first expeditionary force under Sir John French, with the temporary rank of lieutenant general. In that office, Sir John French declared in dispatches, he "met what appeared to be almost insuperable difficulties with his characteristic energy, skill and determination."

On March 21, 1915, he was promoted to be chief of the general staff for Sir John French, succeeding Sir Archibald Murray, who became chief of the imperial general staff. On October 21 of the same year, his temporary promotion to the rank of lieutenant general was made permanent, and on December 21 he was promoted to the office of chief of the imperial general staff, which he now holds, with the rank of general. He was created a Knight of the Victorian order in 1913 and a Knight of the Bath in 1915.

"Valley" Robertson, as every Scot in the British army loves to call him, is known as the possessor of the most complete contempt for the pomp and circumstance, parade and show of military life, in the whole service. He is utterly without formality, but he drives himself and everyone under him mercilessly. For years he has been in the habit of working sixteen hours a day. Work is his sole recreation.

Sir William married in 1894, while at Simla, the daughter of the late Lieut. Gen. T. C. Palin.

WANT NUMBER OF CRUISERS INCREASED

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WASHINGTON, June 21.—A proposal for four battle cruisers and four dreadnaughts in this year's naval construction program was discussed today by the senate sub-committee before which the naval bill is pending. While no decision was reached, Chairman Tillman predicted after the conference that the eight capital ship plan would be approved and Senators Swanson and Lodge, the other two members, said a substantial increase was certain over the house building program of five battle cruisers and no dreadnaughts.

Republican members of the house, who a month ago amended the naval bill so as to provide for an increase of \$2,000,000 in the aeroplane appropriation, carried an amendment through the committee of the whole today for a similar increase in the army bill.

The increase from \$1,222,100 to \$1,222,100 would provide for an additional 200 aeroplanes.

Minority Leader Mann, who offered the amendment, said the aviation service was in a deplorable state and should be built up immediately. Only two democrats, Representatives Hulbert of New York and Beaks of Michigan, voted for it.

An amendment offered by Mr. Hulbert to increase the appropriation by \$14,000,000 was defeated overwhelmingly.

MEXICO EXTRAS SAY U. S. FORCE DEFEATED

MEXICO CITY, June 21.—Extra editions of the newspapers and bulletins posted about the city tonight tell of the defeat of American troops at what is styled "the battle of Carrizal."

The Americans are declared to have been dispersed and 17 prisoners captured.

The official version of the clash says that the Americans attempted to capture the railroad station at Carrizal. It is announced that among the prisoners was an American interpreter, who confessed, it is claimed, that the American commander was the aggressor.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC

WILSON URGED TO RECALL TROOPS

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] NEW YORK, June 21.—President Wilson is urged to withdraw the American troops from Mexico at the earliest possible moment in a resolution adopted tonight by the American Union against militarism. The petition was telegraphed to President Wilson.

"We feel that the withdrawal of these troops at the earliest possible moment," the resolution states, "is essential to the maintenance of our national honor and as a demonstration of the military is a provocation of the Mexican people and makes it increasingly difficult for the de facto government to control the situation. A war arising out of the determination of our government to keep its troops in Mexican territory would be a national humiliation."

The conference also voted to send a similar appeal to the representatives in Washington and Argentina, Brazil and Chile, urging them to offer their services for the adjustment of the differences.

MEXICANS LEAVE BISBEE
[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] BISBEE, June 21.—Mexican Consul Sierra at Naco, Ariz., has ordered all of the Mexicans out of the Warren district, causing a great exodus from Bisbee and the surrounding country. The consul stated it was purely precautionary. The Mexican government is paying transportation to the border. The order is credited to the Mexican ambassador.

LIBERTY ENLIGHTENING THE WORLD—AT NIGHT. This photograph, taken on the night of May 21, shows the illumination of the famous Bartholdi Monument in New York Harbor by searchlights of the pennant-winning battleship Michigan. For half an hour this beautiful spectacle was viewed by thousands, who were thrilled by the majestic Statue of Liberty standing out of the darkness, and by the American flags at the battleship's mastheads, emblazoned by two shafts of light.

The illumination was ordered by the Secretary of the Navy to afford an approximation of the effect that will be produced by the permanent lighting of the statue proposed by The New York World.

Congress has passed an amendment to the Rivers and Harbors Bill authorizing acceptance by the Federal Government of a fund of \$30,000 being raised by The World to purchase an illuminating plant, which the Government will maintain.

Many small contributions to this fund are sought in order that the lighting of the famous statue shall be in keeping with the traditions of this gift of the people of France to the people of the United States.