

A British View of India.

General Opinion That English Will Eventually Triumph.

Special to the Globe.

LONDON, Sept. 18.—British opinion regarding the Indian rebellion is to the effect that eventually British arms must triumph. How long a task this will be, no one pretends to say definitely, and it is also admitted that

but now the situation is entirely different. The general trend of thought seems to be in the direction of the position of the Ameer of Afghanistan. That he has been ruffled by the turn which matters have taken on the frontier is



AN AFRIDI.

much bloodshed must be endured, but in the end the Afridis, even though they may be backed by the ameer of Afghanistan, must retire and again live under the supremacy of the lion and the unicorn.

The British people are very slow in forming an opinion. In fact, they are as slow to decide on a question like this as they are quick to rise in defense of national honor. Many people think Lord Salisbury's colonial policy peculiar, but investigation proves that this

admitted, and this more than all other facts is what makes the outlook for England lack brilliancy. One thing, too, we must admit, and that is that the policy most recently adopted has been pursued in direct defiance to the counsels and warnings of high and experienced officials in England as well as in India.

This departure from old school methods, even though in that cautious fashion of the Conservatives, is not in-

have a very formidable task before her. What is not whispered by our French friends, but what is more than insinuated by some experienced and competent authorities, is that if the Ameer is waxing aggressive, he must have received assurance that he can, at least, reckon on the sympathy of a great European power, which he must have sounded. This, however, opens out a vista of possibilities on which, in the absence of precise details, there is no need to enlarge.

"Looking at the matter calmly, and from a distance," said an eminent German to me the other day, "I cannot see why the Ameer should be false to England at this moment. It would be his object? Does he not receive a handsome subsidy from the Indian government? At the same time I must tell you that it has been known in Berlin for at least two years that people were agitating to bring about a rising of the Mohammedans in Afghanistan against England. The immediate instigator of this agitation was no less a person than the Sultan of Turkey.

"There is positive evidence to the effect which was received in Berlin, and since, and I am quite sure that the British government was also in possession of similar information. Abdul Hamid, angry with the English for the support given to the Armenians, was determined to show that he possessed power, as caliph, to do you harm. He worked at this through Persia. We do not understand your policy in Turkey, and we are quite sure that your diplomatic influence at Constantinople is quite lost. However, that is your affair, not ours.

"Perhaps," I suggested, "Russian influence has been at work too with the ameer, and the financial support he has had from Calcutta will have been provided with a good bonus, from St. Petersburg."

"No," was the reply: "I do not think that Russia's position just now in Central Asia would enable her to do so. If she ever attacks you in India, or in the Indian frontier, it will be to take the country from you, but not to waste her strength in a useless effort. The danger, however, of the present situation, we, here in Berlin, take to be the fact that the Mohammedans are joining the others against you, which was not the case in previous troubles. A very distinguished officer who has held high military commands in India and Afghanistan, and who still occupies an eminent official position, expressed the opinion in conversation recently that, while it is advisable to be prepared for emergencies, there is nothing very alarming in the recent news from India. During the years he spent on the Indian frontier, he acquired an extensive knowledge of the border tribes, and he is convinced that the disturbances which have broken out almost simultaneously at three distinct points are really coincidences, and are not the result of concerted action.

The chief factors in these outbreaks are undoubtedly the pestilent fanatic priests. The attack on the Tochi column, which was the starting point of the whole difficulty, was a comparatively trivial resistance on the part of ignorant and turbulent hillmen to a small and somewhat carelessly handled force sent out to collect a fine. News of the occurrence, traveling with that rapidity which is characteristic of the East, became known at points where ill-feeling existed against the British, and, incited by the mullahs or priests, the tribesmen thought it a favorable opportunity for settling some of their own scores when the enemy was engaged elsewhere.

The whole trouble, however, has

Uncle Sam's New Battleship.

THE ALABAMA NOW APPROACHING COMPLETION.

Special Correspondence of the Globe.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 18.—The next battleship that the United States government will include in its list of serviceable vessels is the Alabama, now on the ways at the Cramps shipyard. She is rapidly approaching completion, and when finished, will be one of the king pins which uphold the honor of the American flag.

The Alabama will be different from the battleships Indiana and Massachusetts, with which those who have seen the North Atlantic squadron are familiar. The double-deck turrets that mark the battleship ordinarily will be missing. The smokestacks will no longer be arranged fore and aft, but according to the style of our English cousins, athwartship. This will remove the somewhat top-heavy appearance, which has been considered the one drawback to the graceful outlines of the Indiana, the vessel that "Fighting Bob" Evans termed the finest machine afloat.

Heretofore there has been a very marked difference between the cruiser and the battleship, even to the unpracticed eye, but this difference, barring the smokestacks, will be greatly lessened by the absence of the double turret. It is declared by naval experts that the Alabama will be a beauty, and it is further claimed that as a speed-maker she will outclass even the Iowa. The general dimensions and principal features of the Alabama are as follows: Speed, 17 knots an hour. Length of load water line, 355 feet. Extreme beam, 72 feet 2.5 inches. Freeboard forward, 19 feet 6.3 inches. Freeboard aft, 13 feet 6 inches. Normal displacement, 11,525 tons. Mean draught, 23 feet 6 inches. Horse power, 12,000. Capacity of coal bunkers, 1,200 tons.

Her armament is ample, as will be observed from the following: Batteries: Main, four 13-inch breech loading rifles; four 6-inch rapid fire breech loading rifles. Secondary battery, seven 6 pounder rapid fire guns; four 1 pounder rapid fire guns; four machine guns; one field gun. The four above water torpedo tubes are placed two on each broadside amidships and will fire through an arc of 60 degrees. The four 13-inch guns are mounted in pairs in two balanced barbette turrets and Harveized armor 15 inches thick, augmented on the slanting faces by two more inches.

Two of the 6-inch rifles will be placed amidships on each side, firing through an armor citadel of steel. Below on the main deck, behind a casemate armor amidships, four more of these 6-inch rifles will constitute a broadside battery. Forward of these guns, one on each side, with six inches of armor plate as protection, two 6-inch rifle Parrotts will be located. The secondary battery is placed in such portions of the ship as need it most. The armor belt, 16½ inches thick, will protect the hull at the water line. Its mean depth is 7½ feet. This belt will extend from the stern to abreast the after barbette and will maintain a maximum thickness from that point forward to the

continuation of the flat protective deck. This deck will be four inches thick aft and three inches thick forward. The ship will be propelled by two triple expansion engines, each in its own water-tight compartment, having cylinders 33.5, 51 and 78 inches in diameter. Eight boilers, two in a compartment, provide a working pressure of 180 pounds. Blowers in the fire room maintain a forced draught.

The Alabama will boast of two fighting stations. One of them will be just beneath the chart house and of steel ten inches thick. The cost of the Alabama will be fully a million dollars less than the government anticipated when it advertised for bids, it would be necessary to pay. She will, too, be one of the first ships finished built under what is called a non-speed bounty. In other words, no matter how fast she goes, her makers will not receive a penny extra in the way of bonus.

Despite this fact, it is declared that she will be the best finished and the most commodious in point of accommodations for officers and crew of any of the vessels of which the government is the present proprietor. The number of men she will carry, exclusive of officers and including marines, will be five hundred. Although her speed is estimated at seventeen knots, those who have been watching her construction are of opinion that she will do much better than that, though that is fairly fast speed. Said an official of the Cramps to me the other day:

"Keep your eye on the Alabama. We have turned out some crack vessels for the government, but there is one which will bear watching. Mark you, she will create a great sensation when she gets into running trim, as did her famous old namesake that flew the Stars and Bars. In my opinion when completed the Alabama will be the best battleship ever built. In appearance I do not think she will be equal to some of the other ships of war, but when it comes to speed and utility and conflict, give me the Alabama. She is like one of those girls that never would shine in the butterfly circles of society, but who knows how to look after her home. It will be a great day for shipbuilding in the United States when she is launched."

The Cramps are reticent as to the probable length of time which will be necessary to consume in completing the Alabama, but it is certain that they are pushing work upon her very rapidly.

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BENTON HARBOR BANK.

Its Doors Closed as the Result of Speculation.

BENTON HARBOR, Mich., Sept. 18.—The First National bank of this city did not open for business today, and National Bank Examiner George B. Caldwell, of Detroit, is in charge. About \$90,000 is due depositors and it is generally believed to be per cent will be realized. The suspension was not wholly a surprise. Depositors have decreased about \$50,000 the past three months. The bank's capital stock was \$50,000, with surplus of \$40,000. James Bailey, the ex-cashier, makes no statement, excepting that in his opinion depositors will be paid in full. Depos-

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A Birch Bark Canoe.

The Canadian Indian Still Keeps the Secret of Its Construction.

Special Correspondence of the Globe.

GRAND DISCHARGE, Que., Sept. 15.—The American tourist shoots

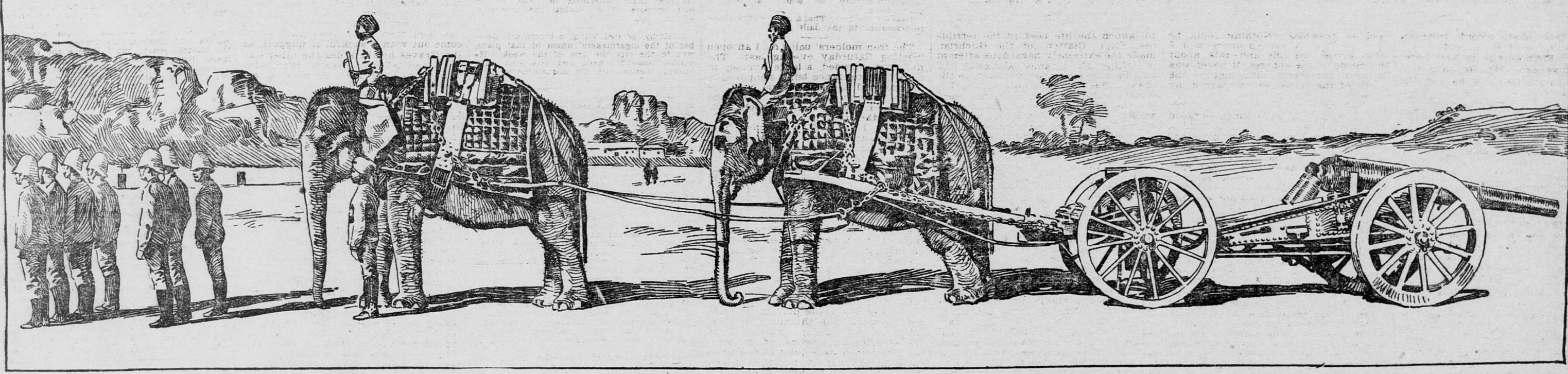
through this place as though he were propelled from a gun. At 11 o'clock in the morning the steamboat Roberval arrives with its load of ten or twenty travelers. They stop at the hotel on the island long enough to eat luncheon. Then they go on their canoes, running in single file through the rapids which mark the opening of Lake St. John at the head of the Saguenay river. The next day they are at Chicoutimi, and the following morning they take boat for the trip down the Saguenay river and up the St. Lawrence to Quebec. When I say they travel like a bullet, I am not so far from the literal truth as you may think, for there are places in the rapids where you travel at the rate of

arms they force the little craft up the stream against a swift current.

The birch bark canoes used in these waters are made by the Montagnais Indians. They look cheap and flimsy, but the guides have to pay \$20 or more for them, and they last only three or four years. The guide, in exercising his trained eye to take you safely through the rapids, is thinking quite as much, no doubt, of the safety of his canoe. A new canoe might represent the profits of a season.

The Indian canoe makers belong to a tribe which camp through the summer months three and a half miles above Roberval. There are about 100 families and they live for the most part in tents. Their only occupation in summer is the making of canoes and moccasins, guiding hunting parties and fishing in the lake. They are dirty, degenerate and lazy, like most of the American Indians, and their camp swarms with dogs, many of them Esk-

THE FAMOUS INDIAN ELEPHANT BATTERIES TO THE FRONT.



has been simply another instance of that care and thoughtfulness which have characterized that statesman's actions. It was believed that the Indian rebellion would be a godsend to the Liberals, in that it would enable them to put forth a rallying cry which would draw many followers from the circle about the Conservative standard,

clined to be received with favor, and is not in line with the prudent, sane and practical feeling of the Briton which is as far removed from aggressive jingoism as is light from darkness. In regard to the purely military aspect of the question, it is thought that if the Ameer of Afghanistan enters actively on the scene, England will

arisen, as he believes, out of the "four winds" to be collected along the frontier. To that policy, the brilliant officer referred to above, and some of the men best acquainted with the country and the people of India and Afghanistan, are strongly opposed. Military posts, unaccompanied by civil administration, have been established in the territories bordering on independent tribes, and the result, instead of inducing the tribesmen to become friendly toward the British, has had an opposite effect.

The "forward" policy has also resulted in increasing the discontent felt toward us by the ameer. When the question of the Mohmand country was being settled, Abdur Rahman wanted to include the whole of it within the Afghan border. The Indian government refused to allow this, and divided the district occupied by the tribe in half, one portion going to Afghanistan, the other being included in the Indian empire. This highly incensed the ameer and the tribesmen who wished to become Afghan subjects, and they are now taking advantage of the disturbance at other points of the frontier to join the enemies of the British dominion.

One informant, who is personally acquainted with the ameer, has a very high opinion of that ruler, who is one of the ablest and most astute men in Asia. He would, no doubt, like to be entirely free from the British suzerainty, but he is, at the same time, keenly aware that he cannot do without British help. While it is quite likely he is very much pleased at the turn of affairs have taken and would, doubtless, secretly encourage them, he is far too clever to openly defy the British power, without which he could not remain on the throne.

There is, therefore, a gleam of light in what is otherwise a very gloomy prospect. At the same time, it is impossible to foresee what an Oriental potentate may do, especially when his pride is suffering under what he considers two very severe rebuffs.

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forward barbette, gradually tapering to four inches at the stem.

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Slanting decks, running from the top of the heavy athwartship bulkheads to the stem and stern, will form the

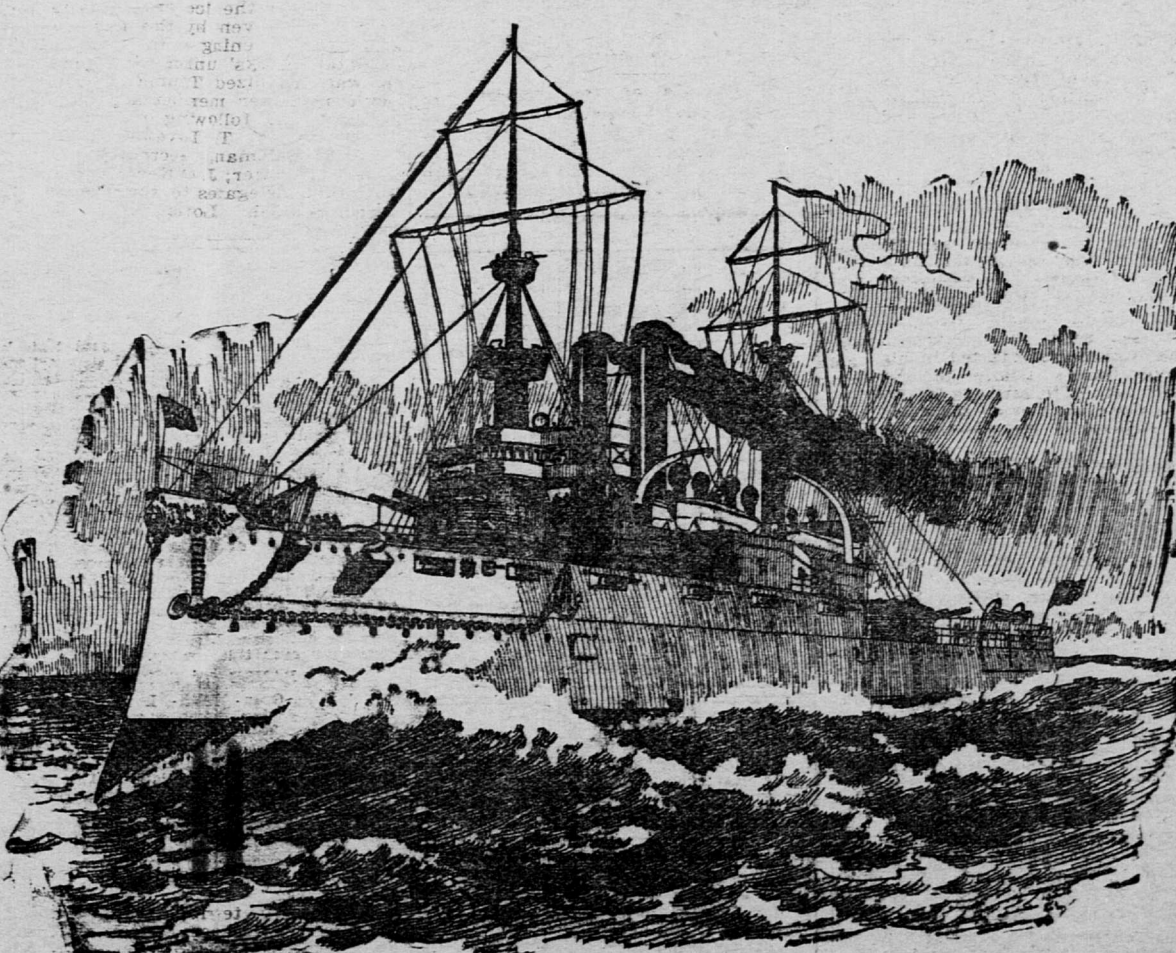
tors attribute the bank's embarrassment chiefly to bad loans.

Bank Examiner Caldwell says that the failure was due to the speculations of ex-cashier James Bailey, "whose unwise investments and dangerous speculative tendencies led to his removal last June." The bank is also burdened with a large amount of real estate taken as security, which is not available for paying depositors. A thorough investigation will be made.

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