

**Notes on the News of the Week.**

The long withheld budget was presented to the house of commons on Friday. It had the merit of being brief, Mr Fielding presenting the annual statement of the Dominion's finances in 2 1/2 hours, which is less than half the usual time. The tone of the speech was hopeful, not to say jubilant, and it is supposed to have been prepared with a view to serving as an election document. No new taxes are proposed, the abounding increase in revenue being not only sufficient to meet the war expenditure but to justify knocking off other 8% per cent. from the duties on British manufactures. The four novel features of the budget are:

- 1 Placing machinery for manufacture of beetroot sugar on free list.
- 2 Free trade with the island of Trinidad, excepting spirits and tobacco.
- 3 That the Imperial government has consented to place Dominion securities on the list of investments which trustees may legally purchase with trust money.
- 4 The increase of the preferential tariff with the United Kingdom from 25 to 33 1/2 per cent.

This last is really the only important feature of the budget, and is gratifying to all who favor free trade with the motherland. The effect of the reduction ought to be to increase Canada's purchases from her kith and kin, and that, in turn, will ensure their buying more of our produce. It is not probable that free trade with Trinidad will prove to be of much advantage, but it is a beginning of what, we trust, may yet be realized, a commercial union between every country that flies the union jack. In presenting the figures of revenue and expenditure, Mr Fielding, as of yore, followed the dishonest practice of making a distinction between ordinary expenditure and expenditure on capital account, and thus deceitfully claims surpluses which have no existence outside of the account books. After boasting of a surplus of nearly 5 million dollars on the year ending last June and one of 7 1/2 millions for the current year, he had to admit the debt had been increasing since 1896 at the rate of 2 1/2 millions a year, and now stood at 266 million dollars. Of all the reforms needed, not the least important is one that would blot out the fiction of the consolidated fund and compel our finance ministers to give the exact amount spent each year. The present method of keeping two accounts, that of ordinary expenditure, pressed prominently on the public attention, and of expenditure on capital account, kept out of sight as much as possible, deceives the taxpayers, and leads them to think the Dominion is in a position different from what it actually occupies. The increase in the volume of trade shows the Dominion to be prosperous, and with an economical government it is at present in a position to pay off part of its debt instead of borrowing more. The revenue for the year ending last June was nearly 47 million dollars, an increase over the preceding year of 6 millions. The expenditure was 52 millions, the largest in the history of Canada.

Last week we noted Mr Marchand's departure from his ante-election pledge, that he would give no subsidies to railways. On the 21st the resolution granting \$250,000 to the Quebec bridge was taken up. The Conservatives had a great deal to say against the resolution during a prolonged debate, but when the resolution was put they showed their insincerity by voting for it! They naturally wanted the resolution declared passed on division, but the government insisted on names being called, when the Conservatives to a man declared for the resolution. It was the same with the subsequent resolutions, proving that both sides of the house were in favor of the subsidies. The pretence that the new subsidies will be paid out of the existing funds, as the grants to colonization and agriculture, is a thin one, for eventually they will have to be met by borrowing. The Hon G. W. Stephens' course with regard to these railway subsidies calls for explanation. He was not present when they were before the house, and no reference was made in the several prolonged debates to any opposition having been made by him. We condemn no man unheard, simply saying that until Mr Stephens clears him-

self, appearances are that in this matter he did not carry out the mandate given him by those who elected him. The legislative council, as was looked for, killed the bill for its own abolition. The vote was 17 to 6. Had all the Liberal members of the council stood true, there would have been a tie. If the councillors can help it, they will not efface themselves. Of course the councillor who professes to represent this district, though he neither knows it nor its people know him, voted for continuing the council as necessary to protect the English-speaking minority! Hypocrisy could hardly go further. Another bill, which required that councillors be residents of the districts they represent, was promptly given a 6 months' hoist, even the councillor who presented the bill, Mr McCorkill, voting for it. The session ended on Saturday, when 129 bills were sanctioned by the lieutenant-governor. The majority of these were private bills; with a few exceptions, the public bills were merely petty amendments to existing statutes. It was understood that, before proroguing, a member was to have asked the attorney-general if he was aware of how the criminal term, now in progress at Beauharnois, was being conducted. On a private assurance that the subject would be looked into, the question was not pressed.

Before the legislature was prorogued, Mr Leblanc, member for Laval, put the following questions to the attorney-general:

- 1 The name of the crown prosecutor at the criminal term now going on at Beauharnois;
- 2 A list of the indictments;
- 3 The names of the attorneys for the accused.

Mr Leblanc said he asked for this information because he saw by a report of the proceedings of the court in Le Progrès, that Thomas Brossoit, Q. C., was the crown prosecutor and that his son and partner, Numa E. Brossoit, was representing certain of the prisoners. The reply was, that the government was not aware of such being the case, but the matter having been brought to their notice inquiry would be made. The conducting of this court being thus made the subject of public discussion, we feel it our duty to express regret at seeing it dragging on in a way that we thought had become obsolete. It has been three weeks in session, yet only 4 cases have been disposed of. This is a serious matter to jurymen and witnesses, apart from the consideration of cost to the province. Farmers who work from dawn to dark are kept dancing attendance on a court that does not sit, on an average, five hours a day.

The collapse of the military boom is shown by the failure to raise the regiment to garrison Halifax. In order to get men the regulation to enlist volunteers only, will have to be abandoned. The arrival of the Milwaukee at Cape Town, with the last detachment of the second contingent is reported. No fewer than 38 horses died during the voyage. The last mail brought letters from members of the first contingent, in which they tell of the disastrous fight at Paardeberg. Their stories confirm what was suspected at the time, that the Canadians were sacrificed to the whim of a commanding officer. They were ordered to charge the Boer position, and tried to cross a level plain to reach the gully where the Boers were entrenched. They were met by a hail of bullets from the unseen enemy so withering that they could not go on, and fell back. Their shattered ranks were reformed and again they started to charge the enemy's position. Again their line was brought to a halt by the deadly Boer fire, but, this time, instead of retreating, the survivors dropped flat on the ground, and creeping to the shelter of stone and bush kept up a skirmishing fire until darkness enabled them to regain the British lines without further loss. The men describe their sufferings while lying flat on the ground, exposed to a burning sun, thirsty and hungry, as execrating. On getting into camp they were met by the provoking information, that the brigade commander had stated they ought not to have been ordered to charge, and that the colonel of the Cornwall regiment who gave the command was in error, for it was no part of Gen. Kitchener's plan. Why the brigadier was not present when the order to charge was issued is not stated. The colonel who gave it paid the penalty with his life. Through his blundering 19 Canadians were killed and 62 wounded—a fearful percentage out of some 800. It is some consolation to relatives when they hear of their soldier's death to be assured the sacrifice of his life was not in vain, that it contributed to victory won,

but in this case there is no such comforting thought, for the Canadians suffered on the field of Feb. 18 without achieving anything beyond proving their personal courage.

A large meeting was held at St Remi on Sunday after mass, at which Mr Monet laid before his constituents his reasons for opposing the sending of Canadians to South Africa. He was followed by Mr Angers and Mr Bourassa, the latter making a powerful address. The speakers did not confine themselves to the sureground of the unconstitutionality of the government's actions, but wandered into the rights and wrongs of the war, with which they had nothing to do. All three showed their sympathies were with the Boers. The meeting closed with the adoption of this resolution:

The electors of the county of Napierville, in their meeting assembled, this March 25th, 1900, declare themselves opposed to every scheme of Imperial federation and to every contribution by Canada to wars of the Empire 'foreign' to Canada.

This resolution, despite all the party organs allege to the contrary, represents the sentiment of the French Canadians, whether Liberal or Conservative, and to ignore it is folly. The yeast of dissatisfaction with our present constitutional standing has been set to work, and what the end may be it is impossible to predict. For this we have to thank the Jingo of Ontario and elsewhere for hurrying the Dominion into war without consulting this province.

The opinion that Colonel Hughes had been harshly used in refusing him a command in South Africa, has been reversed by the correspondence between him and Gen. Hutton being made public. Anything more offensive, impudent and self-conceited than Hughes' letters could not well be. The Toronto News, a Conservative paper which strongly urged that Hughes get a command, remarks:

We take it all back, and feel compelled to acknowledge, after reading the correspondence between General Hutton and the colonel, that the former has acted in a most considerate and generous manner towards a bad-tempered and insolent subordinate. The impression left by the correspondence is that General Hutton acted towards Col. Hughes as an English officer and gentleman, while Colonel Hughes acted towards General Hutton like a South African Boer. If ever a soldier made an ass of himself Colonel Sam Hughes did it in his correspondence with General Hutton.

That the reader may have some idea of what Hughes' letters are like, we give this extract:

Your beautiful sentence re self-effacement in great officers is entirely lost on me. I am desirous of learning where any British officer of note, outside of vacancies caused in actual warfare, has been promoted to high command on his merits alone. Lord Roberts excepted. What the Horse Guards and war office do not know about intrigues and influences and the absence of self-effacement in one's friends, if not directly in one's self, cannot be learned from the most noted body of men in the world, the Methodist conference committees or any church appointing bodies. Why, could I not retreat or surrender equally well with the British regulars to the Boers? History shows that the Yankees whom Canadians could always defeat, though with great odds against us, repeatedly dressed and combed down British troops led by British officers, while the old plugs of Boer farmers were engaged and received hearty encores, as did many of the vocal pieces. Mr Coates is a skilled and successful conductor. Besides, he has a dry humor that came out in pieces that he sang, which quite captivated the audience. Especially was this the case in an impromptu adaptation in which he gave deserved praise to the Ormstown curiers. The receipts exceeded \$60, and netted to the ladies' aid \$25.50.

Four farmers, retiring from the active duties of their calling, are taking up their residence in the village this spring, making quite an addition to the already large number of that class residing here. It is a fact worth noting that six farm properties have changed hands in lower Ormstown in six months, a circumstance of rare occurrence in this or any other district of its size. The India famine fund of St Paul's church now amounts to \$212.

Horses of good quality are in fair demand. D. Finlayson sold a team last week for \$200.

Large quantities of oats are delivered here at 30c for 40lb.

The masquerade at the skating rink last week was successful, there being a large attendance.

Mr John Walker, 2nd concession of Ormstown, and Mr Wm. Spindlow of upper Ormstown having disposed of their farms are now residents of our village, also Wm. McGerrigle.

time republicis expected to call out an order prohibiting importation into Britain. Should such be the case, the price of beef cattle will rise, for South America largely supplies the English market. There is no cheese now un sold in Montreal and prices are nominal. It is scarce in England, with a tendency to rise above the present high quotations. On the other hand, the supply of butter is ample in the English market with low prices.

Nothing of interest has happened at the seat of war. Surprise is being expressed at Gen. Roberts' inaction, but it is by those who do not understand the magnitude of the country in which he is conducting the campaign. Before he leaves Bloemfontein he has to make sure his communications will be kept open, and as that means guarding lines several hundred miles long, it takes time. His army is estimated at 70,000, and to feed that number of men on a march into the enemy's territory involves the collection of a vast quantity of supplies. It is simply impossible for him to advance until he has made sure that he leaves no considerable number of Boers behind him, and of that he is not yet certain. Fragments of the Boer armies that operated along the Orange river are roaming through the southern wilds of the Free State, and might raid his rear train. A number of these Boers have been disposed of and more are daily being hunted down. One large body, estimated to be 5,000 strong, is supposed to have escaped Gen. French and to have reached the main army, which is at Kroonstad. We may rest assured General Roberts is straining every nerve to hasten the end of the war, and when ready to move he will strike rapid and heavy blows. At last accounts Mafeking was holding out, with no immediate prospect of relief. Of Gen. Buller's movements nothing is allowed to become public. It is not expected he will attack the Boers, who are massed in the mountains in front of him, until Roberts begins his advance. The rainy season had set in with unprecedented floods, making operations difficult and increasing the number of cases of fever, which prevails alike in the British and Boer camps. The death of Joubert will not injure the Boers. He had the opportunity of distinguishing himself in the Natal campaign and failed.

**ORMSTOWN**

The Knox choir concert last Thursday gave a great deal of pleasure to about three hundred people, who were not deterred from attending by somewhat bad roads and a moonless night. There were twenty members present, including the leader, Mr W. A. Coates. The choruses, which included patriotic ones that roused British sentiment, were numerous and excellent. The choir showed fine training in these and added to the effect of some by marking marching time. These were interspersed with solos and duets that were highly appreciated. A sufficient measure of the extremely sentimental found place in the program to satisfy love-sick youth, without palling on the taste of the general audience. Miss Tait's selections on the violin were much enjoyed and received hearty encores, as did many of the vocal pieces. Mr Coates is a skilled and successful conductor. Besides, he has a dry humor that came out in pieces that he sang, which quite captivated the audience. Especially was this the case in an impromptu adaptation in which he gave deserved praise to the Ormstown curiers. The receipts exceeded \$60, and netted to the ladies' aid \$25.50.

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**HOWICK**

Rev James Beatt of Rockburn lectured here last week on Scottish song, illustrating his remarks by singing several pieces. The audience was not large, but those present were evidently well-pleased with the excellent

Scotch music and the interesting descriptive lecture. Much information was given as to the origin, character, and versatility of Scotch music, which was calculated to increase our appreciation of these songs. Mr William Greig occupied the chair and a hearty vote of thanks was tendered the speaker.

A collection for the India famine fund was taken up on Sunday in the Howick congregation, which netted the handsome sum of \$33 from eight contributors, and at Riverfield the sum of \$22 was collected.

Mr Hunter has purchased from Mr R.R. Wilson his corner lot, in rear of his store, and intends putting up a building in the summer.

**STE MARTINE**

During the past few days the snow has been disappearing fast, and it looks as if sleighing will be done with this month. Lots of cord wood has been drawn to the village since the storm on the 17th inst.

To comply with the desire of the farmers of the Bean River concession, Mr Edward McGowan is building a creamery at Bean River Corners, where he had a cheese factory last summer. The creamery will be opened by the 15th of April if there is enough milk then offering.

An old resident of this village, Mr Alexis M. Gagnier, died Tuesday night, after a few weeks' illness. He was registrar of this county for many years. His funeral takes place Friday morning.

**BEAUHARNOIS**

We are having regular sugar weather now, and several farmers have already tapped their trees.

Farmers, taking advantage of the good sleighing, have drawn much hay during the past week. Over 15 cars have been shipped, most of it going to the States.

Prices of butter and eggs are falling. Freshly made butter now sells for 20c per pound, and eggs 14c.

The criminal court last week was occupied by the case of Achille Hebert, accused of a shameful crime. After the evidence was in, and Mr McAvoy had addressed the jury, a compromise was come to Tuesday forenoon, the crown substituting a modified charge, to which the prisoner pled guilty. Sentence was suspended. In the afternoon the following jury was empanelled to try Onezime Genereux for setting fire to buildings in Valleyfield:

- Daniel McCann, Hinchinbrook
  - John Cusaden, Hemmingford
  - Frs. Lucotte, St Urbain
  - J. Z. Cecire, St Philomene
  - J. B. Benoit, St Louis de Gonzague
  - Louis Tonchelette, Ste Martine
  - Isaac Chevreuil, St Chrysostome
  - Andrew Coffy, Egin
  - Henry Brown, Havelock
  - John Gilbert, Dewittville
  - Trefle Luberger, St Chrysostome
  - John Cleland, Hemmingford
- The case will outlast the week.

**ST LOUIS DE GONZAGUE**

The proposal to build a new Presbyterian church is now assured of successful realization. Thirty families have subscribed \$2,600, and the estimated cost being \$3,000 it will be seen the work will go on. The liberality and spirit displayed is beyond all praise, for the congregation is small and scattered.

**VALLEYFIELD**

Owing to the dreadful condition of the streets, accidents and upsets are numerous. Mr James Sparrow was a victim last Thursday. He was thrown out of his sleigh and had his left shoulder dislocated. The sidewalk, if anything, are in a worse condition, people having to wade through slush and over slippery parts of the road, the authorities meanwhile whiling their time in splitting hairs on minor subjects.

The access to the Presbyterian church on Sunday could easily be reached in a boat, but the pedestrian had either to wade through 10 inches of water or return home. It was a grand occasion to display Christian fortitude, and put to test the precept of "bear and forbear."

Mr E. St Cyr, for seven years chief millwright of the M.C.C., has resigned his position to assume another in Montreal. Mr St Cyr will leave a good remembrance of himself, both as a capable workman, a hard worker and a good citizen, amongst his numerous friends in Valleyfield.

The lessee of the Palace skating rink has gone, leaving a lot of sorrowing creditors. We are told the proprietors of the rink had offered from two of our local townspeople last fall to lease the rink for the winter at a good price, payable in advance. Moral: Don't buy a pig in a poke.

The college authorities have received from the government a supply of rifles and small arms for the use of pupils in their cadet classes. Having lately had occasion to attend one of the classes, we were

greatly surprised at the proficiency displayed by the pupils in their drill and manual exercises. They are coming "Soldiers of the Queen."

The curling club had to forego its return match with Ormstown on account of the bad roads. The matches are closed for this season.

The atmosphere in our town at present smells of fire, brimstone, and elections. Both parties are preparing for the coming struggle and great activity is in order in the way of revising electoral lists, measuring forces, estimating probable defections from either side. Present holders of office are as ardent in their efforts to maintain their party in power as office-seekers are to dislodge them, the former forgetting they got office through the "offensive partisan" cry, and the latter endeavoring to make most of the established precedent, all carrying out the old adage, "that all is fair in love and war!"

Mr Gault, former draughtsman of the Northrop Loom Co., paid Valleyfield a visit this week, and claims things are humming around Hopevale.

A painful accident took place on Thursday, by which a lad, named Thomas Reynolds, while attending a machine in the card room of the M.C.C., had his hand caught in the gearing, lacerating it badly. Dr Sutherland was immediately summoned, and gave the patient prompt attendance.

Mr Geo. H. Phillips, senr., paid Valleyfield a flying visit last week, and claims that the business of the Ottawa & New York railway, of which company he is general agent, is doing a large business and that all preparations are made, as soon as the weather will permit, for the rebuilding of the company's bridge on the American side of the St Lawrence opposite Cornwall. This will no doubt increase the factory town's already thriving business.

Rev Mr Grant, a returned 3-years' missionary in the Klondike region, gave an interesting lecture on that country, its resources and hardships, in the Presbyterian church Wednesday evening of last week. There was a large audience to listen to the graphic and entertaining recital of the speaker's experience during his stay in that dreary and dismal country.

An entertaining and successful concert was held in the Gault institute Thursday under the auspices of the E.L.C.E. The hall was very nicely decorated and well-filled with an appreciative audience. The talent presented was excellent. Miss Barker secured encores, and excelled herself in the rendering of Macheroni's "For all Eternity," and Mr Landry in Adams' "The Jolly Smiths." Mr Ouillette did very well in Macheroni's "A Holy Prior" and "Two Grenadiers." Mr Angus Winter acted as accompanist and filled his ungrateful task efficiently. It gives us pleasure to say, that of the various exponents of the musical art that have been induced to visit Valleyfield, the artists above mentioned rank amongst the first. We now have a professor of dancing, when shall our admirers of the most sublime art get together and lay the way to secure a good professor of voice culture in our town? We have the voices and the means of paying for a proper course of instruction. Who will move in the matter?

**HEMMINGFORD**

Mrs Wm. Moore dropped dead on Monday evening at the residence of her son. Deceased was previously in good health; heart failure was the cause of death.

The congregation of the Presbyterian church are to meet, after divine service on Sunday, to endeavor to choose a minister to fill the vacancy in the church.

Dr Harper, inspector of superior schools visited our model school today, March 27th.

It is probable the late severe storms will necessitate an extra levy of road labor for the summer roads, some of the districts having exhausted their list of labor, while much yet remains to be done on our winter roads before they can be called passable.

The councils of the township and village meet on Monday and Tuesday next respectively, when the voters' lists will be considered. Everyone qualified to vote should see that his name is on the list. The coming year is great in possibilities.

The agricultural society met on Saturday, when it was decided to contest the suit of W. A. Blair for prizes on lambs at the late show. The president, J. McCanse, was appointed to urge the claims of the society for exemption from farm and crop competitions, before the council of agriculture at Quebec.

John Cleland and W. D. Curran, jurors at Beauharnois, spent Sunday at home, returning on Monday. They report the criminal term is likely to last till May 1st. A pleasant pros-

pect for those having sugar to make and stock to look after.

**FRANKLIN CENTRE**

The last service in the old Episcopal church was held Sunday afternoon. Rev Mr Strong took for his text "God is love." Mr Fred Adams, who has the contract for the carpenter work of the new church, began tearing down the old one on Monday, and the new building will be in progress as soon as the weather permits. It is not yet settled where service will be held till the new church is completed.

**HERDMAN**

Our little village has again been visited by fire; this time the old cheese factory, owned by Macpherson & Ferguson, has been totally destroyed. Early on Sunday morning smoke and flame were seen rolling over and out of the building, and before anything could be saved the roof fell in. There is only one way of accounting for the fire, that it was the work of an incendiary. Of this there can be no doubt, as there had not been fire in or near the place for the last two years. Owing to keen competition this factory did not run last season, and what makes the loss all the more felt by the company and farmers alike, is the fact that it was about to open shortly, and the company had, last week, put in quite a lot of new machinery. That we have a dangerous character in our community everyone freely admits. It is a great pity that the person guilty of such an act could not be found out and punished. There was no insurance on the property destroyed.

Our enterprising townsman, Male, Elder, proposes to sojourn with us the coming summer and is moving to his old residence.

Your correspondent at Rockburn seems to be under the impression that something is wrong with our mail-driver. We think he has been very much alive and energetic lately in getting through the protracted visitation of bad roads.

**STARKS**

One of the most enjoyable gatherings that has taken place for some time in this neighborhood, was held on the evening of the 21st, at the residence of D. A. McFarlane. The friends in the district, wishing to show their appreciation of Mr John Mack's untiring efforts in helping to secure a bridge, decided to tender him an oyster supper, when 100 sat down to a bountiful spread, and did ample justice to the good things proffered. After supper speeches were indulged in, while social interchange of ideas and music enlivened the evening. A vote of thanks was tendered Mr and Mrs McFarlane, who had so kindly offered the use of their house, and to all who had helped to make the supper a success. The meeting closed at a late hour by singing "God Save the Queen."

**LAGUERRE**

No event ever took the parish of St Anicet more by surprise or gave it a greater shock than the death of John D. MacDonald. He had always been a healthy man, and could say he had never been in bed a day or had to send for a doctor, and, to all appearance, had many years of energetic usefulness before him. On the 5th instant he had to attend the municipal council, and the roads being blocked by a storm went to St Anicet village and returned on snowshoes. Whether the exertion injured him cannot be said, but on his return he took ill, and was under medical care. On the 12th he was round again as usual, and on the 14th visited Huntingdon to be present at the county council meeting. On the afternoon of the 18th he took ill, and the trouble this time was strangulation of the bowels. On the evening of the following day the rupture was reduced, but of no avail, for he did not rally, and died Friday morning. The funeral, which took place on Sunday, was the largest ever held here, and was attended by both Catholics and Protestants, French and English. Mr MacDonald was a native of the county, and, on both sides, was descended from early settlers of LaGuerre. Succeeding to the business of his father, he carried on store-keeping and farmed on a large scale, owning over 900 acres, a good deal of which, however, is marsh. Well educated and intelligent, and speaking French as fluently as English, he was repeatedly chosen to serve in the council, and when he died was filling a second term as mayor. He was also a director of the agricultural society. Mr MacDonald was a staunch supporter of the Gleaner and acted as its LaGuerre correspondent for over 30 years. He leaves a widow, an only son, 15 years old, and a daughter, who have the sympathies of the community in the unlooked for calamity that has overtaken them.

**WAR NOTES**

Cape Town, March 23.—The condition of Gen. Sir Geo. White who commanded the garrison at Ladysmith during the siege of that town has improved. He will sail hence for England on March 28th.

A corporal in the 2nd Battalion King's (Shropshire) Light Infantry writes home from the Orange river camp describing the punishment meted out to sentries who fall asleep at their post. He says: "I am guard over four prisoners undergoing first-class—the hardest—field punishment for sleeping on their posts when on sentry-go. They get from 28 to 34 days' punishment, and are manacled feet and wrists the whole time. In addition, they are for 21 days each out of the total fastened to railway sleepers sunk one end in the ground, and with their manacles still on are chained by their feet to the bottom of the sleepers, and their hands fastened to their full extent above their heads for two hours per day straight off. It is hard, but it serves them right, as we should have been all cut up through their negligence, and they themselves are liable to be shot."

Pte. R. Wain, of the 1st Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, describing an advance under a heavy fire, says: "A man who was wounded near me was crying out for help, so I went and dressed his wounds and gave him water. Just then Jack (his brother) came along the line and asked me if I was wounded. I said, 'No, but this poor chap is, and we must take him under cover.' I told Jack to lie down while I got the man on his feet, and then Jack took hold of his other arm. We had got about 10 yards when poor Jack fell, shot dead. Jack's last word was one of comfort to the wounded man. I stood fighting by my brother's body until dark, when the enemy retired, leaving us victorious. But at what a cost, to me!"

Private Rogers, who was in the fighting on the Tugela, writes his people of the scenes which he has witnessed in the war. He himself had many narrow escapes, and saw one of the lieutenants struck by a shell. His shoulder and arm were blown off on one side, his wrist shattered on the other, and a portion of his head was knocked off. In another case Rogers was carrying a wounded officer of the Inniskilling Fusiliers down a hill, "when," he says, "I missed my footing and fell over a rock. The poor fellow, who was shot in the chest (the bullet having made its exit through his loins), did not complain, however, although I must have caused him a great deal of pain. He said, 'All right, orderly, I know you could not help it!' He died of his wounds three or four days ago."

Capt. Edwards, an Australian, commanding the ambulance corps, writes his mother: The British army is a mass of red tape and theory, and I venture to say that were our colonial affairs left to them, and not to colonial men, they would soon tell a tale. I went out with an officer 30 odd miles scouting. He did not know enough practical soldiering to save his horse, and his poor beast came back to camp nearly dead and useless, and I, who went yard for yard with him, could not hold my mare for the last five miles. How can such men fight the Boers, who live in the saddle? The waste and red tape is killing us. Edwards adds that the scouts accomplish their dangerous work well, and their reports are ignored.

Springfontein, March 21.—Gen. Gatacre and his staff are still here. He is most strict regarding the private property of the Boers. Some officers who had looted Boer farms have been tried and severely punished, to the great astonishment and gratification of the Boer residents.

The following parody is dedicated to those who lived on horseflesh during the siege of Ladysmith:

An' I ate the boss in a week or less,  
An' as I eatin' be  
The last of his chops,  
Why, I almost drops,  
For ol' Butler in sight I see!  
An' I never larfs, an' I never smiles,  
An' I sit an' larks nor play,  
But I sit an' croak,  
An' a single joke  
I have, which is to neigh:  
Oh, I'm the colt, an' the roadster, too,  
An' the lead of the tandem pair,  
An' the war horse bold,  
An' the hunter odd,  
An' the foal of the doctor's mare!

Pte. Webb, writing to his parents at Marriott, tells of the wholesale destruction of a Boer family. He says: Among the prisoners is a boy of 14 years of age. He told us that his father and six brothers had been fighting, and that four of them and his father were killed at Colenso. Another brother was killed later on, and the little prisoner himself was wounded. Poor little chap, he is the only one alive out of the seven! It is very hard to see him.

Cape Town, March 23.—A Boer prisoner while trying to escape from the enclosure at the Green Point track today, was shot dead by a sentry.

Signaller Bennett, of the 12th Lancers, writes to his parents at Ladysmith, saying that after the battle of Magerfontein he found the body of a

