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"EVER ENDING" WAR IS APPARENTLY YET FAR FROM REAL END

News That Came to London From South Africa at Christmas Time Was Black.

TOLD OF TWO BAD DEFEATS.

Rosebery's Speech Seems to Have Little Effect in Light of Present Conditions.

FEW NOW APPROVE HIS PLANS.

British Press Makes Angry Demand That Boer Prisoners Be Shot as Answer to Amnesty Demands.

BY HERBERT PAUL.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.—London, Dec. 28.—The Christmas news from South Africa is extremely black. The Christmas Day papers contained a list of four officers killed in two separate engagements with casualties amounting to more than a hundred in number.

Two days afterward came the account of General De Wet's successful attack upon Colonel Firman's camp, with the surrender of 400 Yeomanry and the loss of two guns.

Thus, the optimistic assurances of the Government are shown to be absolutely groundless.

The "ever-ending" war apparently is as far from an end as ever.

It is rather a rude interruption to the successive debate on platforms and in the newspapers and magazines upon Lord Rosebery's message of peace.

These successes, small in themselves, and not very large even in the aggregate, will not, I fear, increase the willingness of the Boer delegates in Europe to make those overtures which Lord Rosebery would have the Government accept.

Nor will the British people be made more pacific by the exploits of the ubiquitous De Wet.

LORD ROSEBURY'S SPEECH PRODUCES LITTLE EFFECT.

The best chance for peace would be some signal defeat of De Wet, Botha or Delahey, but in the absence of such a desirable event Lord Rosebery's appearance as a "copperhead," or exponent of unconditional surrender, has undoubtedly produced little effect.

If Lord Rosebery had been logical, that effect might have been very great.

At this rate, however, his policy had been followed by a demand for Lord Milner's recall, and his protest against refusing terms by the proposal that they should be offered, public opinion would have been deeply stirred.

Mr. Chamberlain might have found his position untenable.

As it is Mr. Chamberlain represents the dominant and unscrupulous plan.

Mr. Chamberlain, whether or not he carries all his colleagues in the Cabinet with him, says plainly that negotiations are at an end; that the Boers rejected them; that they ought not have another opportunity, and that the war must be continued until the last command has given in.

That, at least, is an intelligible statement. I suppose, however, what was Lord Milner meant when he spoke of the war never coming formally to a close.

ANOMALOUS POSITION REGARDING THE WAR.

On the one hand, the leader of the opposition demands that a special Commissioner be sent to South Africa, as Lord Durham was sent to Canada, with full powers to negotiate if, after inquiry, he should consider that course desirable.

That, again, is clear, practical advice.

But Lord Rosebery dissent from both Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Henry Campbell-Bannerman.

He considers the demand for unconditional surrender impolitic and unjust.

He regards the succession of Lord Milner, which, in his opinion, the dispatch of a commissioner would involve, as an insult to loyalists and a danger to Cape Colony.

The Government and its supporters do not like Lord Rosebery's speech.

The thought was coming over to them.

He has condemned their diplomacy, though not their conduct of the war by methods of barbarism.

LIBERAL IMPERIALISTS STRONGLY PLEASED.

The Liberal Imperialists declare that it exactly represents their views.

Yet it stigmatizes the proclamation of bushwhacking, which Mr. Asquith warmly denied.

It denounced Mr. Chamberlain's language about Germany, which Sir Edward Grey expressly approved.

It severely censured the language of Lord Milner, whom they regard, humanely speaking, as infallible.

The fact is, they are so relieved as to the sentence in which Lord Rosebery expresses his particular confidence in the high moral character of a responsible compromise.

Lord Rosebery has, in truth, said so many things on so many sides of the question that everyone can take what he likes and leave what does not meet with his personal approval.

Mr. Lloyd-George, to whom the Jingo of Birmingham gave such a splendid advertisement the other day, welcomed Lord Rosebery warmly as the harbinger of peace.

GOVERNMENT STURGEON THAN LIBERAL.

Some other advanced Radicals, who always oppose the Government, are inclined to agree with Mr. Chamberlain's view.

Lord Rosebery, without doubt, is a good Radical, and is likely to remain so.

The Cabinet breaks, they can hardly be induced—especially not by an opinion which is quite as much divided as the Cabinet can be.

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THINGS ARE COMING TO A POINT WITH VEN EZUELA.

PRESIDENT CARLETON MAKES EXPLANATION

Transit Company Executive Says Street Car Service in St. Louis Will Be Improved.

MAKING ALL POSSIBLE HASTE.

Company Plans to Have Model System, He Declares, Before World's Fair—Will Comply With Laws.

PRESIDENT CARLETON'S STATEMENTS IN BRIEF.

"If Mayor Wells will suggest anything that the Transit Company can do to better comply with the law it will be done without the necessity of an inquiry. The men who own the Transit stock are not lawbreakers and do not have to be whipped into line."

"Millions are being spent in the improvement of the Transit Company's facilities with the view of making its system before the World's Fair the best in the United States. The conditions that are complained of mostly by the patrons are due to causes that come from the fast growth of the city, and they will be remedied in their natural line."

"For the Transit Company I will say that everything possible is being done to improve matters quickly and that deeds will show rather than explanations that the wishes of the people are paramount to everything else with the men who own and direct the affairs of the much-abused corporation of which I am the head."

President Murray Carleton of the St. Louis Transit Company was asked yesterday for a statement explaining what his intentions were to early improve the poor street car service that his patrons complain of, and for an explanation of the contention between the operators under city franchises granted the Transit Company.

"It is the intention of the Transit Company to show by its deeds, rather than by

nance, did they know it. It is their desire to give the public the very best service that can be afforded, and to make their property the pride of its patrons as well as of its owners. There is never a grievance that is complained of that does not receive respectful consideration."

"It will not require a municipal inquiry to compel the Transit Company to comply with the provisions of the law. If Mayor Wells will point out anything that we can possibly do that will help our service or give more satisfaction to our patrons, I will promise him that it will be done, without more than a few words of explanation."

"There never was a time," continued Mr. Carleton, "when street cars in St. Louis were not crowded during some parts of the day. It was in the early days of horse cars, it was later when the railroads came in, and it is now when we have the fastest means of transportation known. We hope never to have to run empty cars on our lines, and don't believe that we ever will."

"Only last night the breaking down of a coal wagon on the track caused a forty-minute delay to traffic on the Olive street line, and in that time we received more abuse than we were given credit for spending the thousands that it cost us to change this line from cable into electricity. There are some things that cause vexatious delays that can only be prevented by Providence, but for which the company must stand the blame. It annoys the people to have to wait, but it annoys us to have these accidents happen."

"There never was a time," continued Mr. Carleton, "when street cars in St. Louis were not crowded during some parts of the day. It was in the early days of horse cars, it was later when the railroads came in, and it is now when we have the fastest means of transportation known. We hope never to have to run empty cars on our lines, and don't believe that we ever will."

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