

LOOKING BACKWARD OVER THE CLOSING CENTURY

Sketches that Indicate the Progress in a Few Respects
During the Past 100 Years

Religion—Philanthropy—Government—Military Operations—Education—Local Men Contribute Articles on These Subjects that Furnish a Good Deal of Valuable Information

To indicate the development in the whole range of human activity in this best century the world has known would be a stupendous task. It is only fitting, however, that at its close we should cast our mental vision across its decades and note the changes for good and bad, that have marked its course. To aid in that operation we asked a number of local gentlemen to contribute articles on several subjects. It is regretted that some could not comply with that request, but herewith are the articles of those who did.

Great Britain's Military Operations in the Century

By Lt.-Col. Sam Hughes

The nineteenth century has been eventful to Great Britain in military matters. The improvements in the material of war have been many and great. The British soldier at the beginning of the century was armed with the old match-lock musket. The flint lock succeeded and was deemed a revolution. Then came the "cap" gun. The Minie rifle of the Crimean war period, first proved the great advantage of accurate shooting. Though breech-loading guns were tried many years previously, their first practical use was in the American Civil war 1861-5. The Northern armies then had a number. In the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-1, as well as in the Prusso-Austrian war of 1866 the breech-loader termed "the needle gun," was almost universally used.

The improvements in war material, arms, guns and ammunition have involved needed changes in tactics and strategy. In olden times battles frequently began at easy speaking distance. On one occasion the English officer, advancing to the front a few paces, called out, "The officer commanding the French will be good enough to order his men to deliver the first fire," whereupon, not to be outdone in gallantry, the Frenchman replied: "Nay, sir. The officer commanding the English will please deliver the first fire." The French always receive the first fire. The old close formations if both armies are armed with the long range weapons are, or rather should be obsolete. The long thin, very thin line, is the only effective plan of meeting an enemy under existing conditions. This involves rapidity of movement in outflanking or cutting off the retreat of an enemy. Hence the value of horses. Stonewall Jackson was the first, as he remains the greatest strategist of the age. The value of forced marches and outflanking movements has never been so well exemplified as by old Stonewall. Of course, if one's enemy is a horde of poorly armed natives then the tactics as well as strategy should vary. But where each contending party is similarly armed, there is no longer use for the mass formation. The individuality of officers and men should at any period or under any system be developed to the highest degree; but under the present conditions of long range weapons, and smokeless powder, individuality in both officers and men is absolutely necessary.

But progress has not slumbered with this invention of breech-loaders. The old smoke powder, which enabled an enemy to locate his opponent, has given place to the smokeless powder; the large bore is supplanted by the small, thus greatly reducing the weight of ammunition and enabling more rounds to be carried; and the effective range of the rifle has been increased from the few hundred feet of Waterloo days to thousands of yards.

The century opened with Great Britain at war with France, the primary cause being the suppression of the French Revolution with its "Reign of Terror" and attendant atrocities, and later the overthrow of Bonaparte's despotism. The period of the Peninsular war and Waterloo campaigns—the scenes of Britain's chief operations on land, as well as Copenhagen and Trafalgar at sea are creditable to Britain's arms and the valor of her men.

In 1812 the United States went to war with Great Britain nominally on the right of search of vessels, claimed by Britain; but in reality to return assistance to France for help given in the War of Independence, and also to annex Canada. This war is memorable from the fact that Canadians fought successfully side by side with British soldiers, and began

what has again been successfully exemplified in South Africa. Queenston Heights, Lundy's Lane, Detroit, Chrysler's Farm, Chateaugay and other fields of fame, attest the valor of Canadians in that war. Kaffir wars in South Africa in 1811, 1819, 1835, and at later periods engaged British armies in that quarter. The Turkish-Egyptian fleet was destroyed by an allied fleet under the British Admiral Codrington at Navarino in 1827, an event which greatly assisted Greece in becoming independent.

In 1837-8 the Canadian rebellion rippled the placid surface of peace within Britain's domain. The cause was nominally the desire of the people to have responsible instead of representative government, a desire intensified by the tyrannical and injudicious conduct of a portion of the Executive of the province. The real cause—a cause not however recognized even by many who rebelled—was the wish to annex the country to the United States.

Britain's Indian interests demanded the pacification of Afghanistan on her Northwestern frontier. The first Afghan war 1838-9; followed in 1841-2 by the massacre of the entire British army save one man, amid the mountain passes and snows of that inhospitable region, and at subsequent periods, till the splendid campaigns under Generals Stewart and Roberts of 1878-9, constitute Britain's association with that country.

The Crimean war 1854-6 and the Indian mutiny 1857-9, greatly taxed Britain's power, but from both struggles she emerged triumphant. The Chinese or "opium war", of 1840-2 was followed by that of 1857-8, while British troops again occupy Chinese ports with allies from Germany, United States, Russia and France in 1900.

The Fenian Raids of 1866, 1870, and 1871, and the Red River (Riel) Rebellion of 1870 and the Northwest Rebellion of 1885 again called on Canadian's to prove their mettle in arms.

The campaigns in Egypt 1882 and 1884, and in the Soudan in 1898 are yet fresh in the memory of our readers.

There have been several small wars with Ashantee in central western Africa. In 1873 and three times since then there have been troubles. Abyssinia in 1867 declined to do

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justice to British subjects. In 1868 British troops invaded that country, and captured the capital, Magdala.

New Zealand has been the scene of three wars, in 1844, 1855 and in 1863 with the Maoris, the natives of that splendid land. These are today among Britain's most loyal citizens, and are a very superior people. Burmese wars from 1824 to 1884, have resulted in the addition of that district to Britain's Indian Empire, while the Chitral and Tirah wars on the north western frontier of India have also added vast areas in those regions.

The Zulu war of 1879, and those with the Hotentots, Basutos, Matabels and other South African races, have resulted in the addition of much territory to British rule.

In 1880 the Transvaal war broke out and owing to Britain's policy of dispatching only small forces of about a thousand men, disaster resulted. When the British army was assembled and General Roberts arrived to take command it was found an inglorious peace had been concluded. The present South African war broke out in 1899. Its causes were (1) the refusal of the Transvaal to grant citizen rights to British subjects, although they paid eighty per cent. of the taxes, and this refusal in direct defiance of the convention of 1881; (2) the violation of the principle that taxation carries with it the right of representation; (3) the impossibility of becoming a full Transvaal subject short of fourteen years—meantime the person must have renounced Britain; (4) the forcing of the Dutch language on British citizens by demanding that all children be taught only the Dutch; (5) the aim openly promulgated since 1864 by Mr. Kruger and the extreme elements of South African Dutch, to drive Britain into the sea and have one united "Dutch Republic from the Zambesi to the Cape of Good Hope;" (6) the plotting of Britain's other enemies to disrupt the old Empire. These are among the many causes of the war. The immediate cause was the invasion and attempted annexation of the British South African colonies, by the forces of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

There were scores of minor affairs in which Britain's arms have been engaged during the century; indeed there are always three or four "small affairs" on hand; but such do not come within the field of this summary. Within the century the following territories have been added to the British Empire:

- In Europe
- 1807—Heligoland—since sold to Germany.
- 1801—Malta and Gozo.
- In Asia
- 1838—Aden—area 75 miles, population 34,700.
- 1888—Brunel, area 3000.
- 1878—Cyprus, area 3584, pop. 186,173.
- 1843—Hong Kong, area 30, pop. 201,000.
- 1857—Keeling Ids., area 8, pop. 400
- 1846—Labuan, area 30, pop. 6298.
- 1840—North Borneo—31,106—175,000.
- 1855—Perim—5—150.
- 1888—Sarawak—35,000—3000,000
- 1785-1819—Straits Settlements—1472—516,000
- Feudatory States—24,660—375,000
- In Africa
- 1815—Ascension Ids.—35—200.
- 1868—Basutoland—10290—180000
- 1885—Bechuanaland—162,000—44,000.
- 1895—Bechuanaland Protectorate—886,200.
- 1884—Bechera
- 1888—British East Africa—75,000
- 1806-1877—Cape Colony—279,000—1,252,000.
- 1831—Gambia—69—14,000.
- 1861—Gold Coast—29,400—1,400,000.
- 1861—Lagos—1,071—87,000.
- 1888—Matabeland—250,000.
- 1810—Mauritius—708—361,400.
- 1833—Natal—20,800—442,700.
- 1885—Niger Districts.
- 1875—Socotra—1,000—1,000.
- 1818—Tristan J'Acunba—45—94.
- 1866—Zululand—8,900—64,000.
- 1890—Amatongaland—5,300—40,000.
- 1880—Swaziland—750.
- 1900—Orange River Colony—49,950—210,000.
- 1900—Transvaal Colony—121,642—870,000.

- Note (1). 77,717 whites and 129,787 natives. Note (2). (Census of 1885). 165,000 whites and 705,000 natives. Of the whites about 70 per cent. are of British origin.
- In America
- 1833—Falkland Ids.—6,500—1,800
- 1803-15—Guiana—109,000—277,038
- 1805-1803—Windward Ids.—623—@ 137,422.
- In Australasia
- 1888—Cook Archipelago—300—8,000.
- 1874-1881—Fiji Ids. and Rotumah—7,754—126,000.

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News of the Week

—A telegram from Natal reports the death of Rev. G. C. Bailey, the Anglican rector of Dundee, who remained at his post to attend the sick and wounded left behind in Yule's retreat on Ladysmith. Mr. Bailey officiated at the funeral of

Maj.-Gen. Penn-Symons, over whose grave he hoisted a carefully hoarded Union Jack when the Boers began to retire from the town before Buller's victorious army. The deceased rector's last official act was to refute a charge of infamous outrage which had been brought against British soldiers in this district, by obtain-

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