

# THE TIMES

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### A DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## THE TIMES

Port Limon, Costa Rica (G. A.)

### Britain Needs More Soldiers for Defence.

#### LORD ROBERTS URGES INCREASE TO ONE MILLION MEN.

##### Debate in Upper House On National Defence.

The debate on the subject of national defence was opened in the House of Lords.

Field Marshal Lord Roberts moved a resolution reading, "that in view of the altered strategic conditions of Europe this House views with grave and growing concern the inadequate military arrangement of the Government for the defence of the country and His Majesty's overseas dominions." In speaking to his resolution Lord Roberts said it required special courage to introduce such a motion at a time when there was so much talk of disarmament and peace, but a totally unexpected incident had encouraged him. He referred to the speech of Imperial Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg in the German Reichstag last week.

The manly sense of this speech, Lord Roberts said, appealed to him in a way which he found it difficult to express. The German Chancellor had defined what was the true relation of a nation to its armed forces and had put into words a principle which during the last few months had been in his (Lord Roberts) own mind.

Lord Roberts affirmed that Great Britain's existing forces did not represent either her resources or the spirit which animated the nation, because it had neither an army such as was needed for home defence nor an effective army to protect the territories abroad.

After referring to the costly experiences of the South African War which occurred principally through insufficiently trained troops, Lord Roberts asserted that the army needs an additional million trained men. The condition of the army, said Lord Roberts in conclusion, ought to be examined into by experts who had no axe to grind.

During his speech in the House of Lords Lord Roberts recalled many historic incidents to show the danger of relying in time of war upon untrained men.

He declared that the saying that one volunteer was worth two impressed men.

#### WAS SHEER NONSENSE.

The truth was that one man whether pressed or unpressed if carefully trained and well disciplined was worth at least six undisciplined and insufficiently trained volunteers. He added:

"Let us by all means listen to the aspirations of the advocates of universal peace and do all in our power to help them along, but in the meantime warned by what followed the prophetic outburst of 1851, let us in all respects be ready for war."

"There is no time to be lost if our army is to be made ready to fight. It is my deliberate opinion that while other nations are duly and steadily becoming stronger and more powerful we are daily and steadily losing ground. One margin of safety on the sea is rapidly disappearing and should

war come upon us with the startling rapidity wherewith it has come to other nations in recent years we shall be found absolutely unprepared."

Viscount Haldane, the Secretary of War, in reply said Lord Roberts's suggestion was for which Great Britain must prepare much for the defence of either India against Russia, or of Canada against the United States, or of Egypt and for the maintenance of the balance of power in Europe.

He (Lord Haldane) feared that Lord Roberts's short service army of a million would bring the nation to the verge of bankruptcy. The War Secretary said he could not admit that Great Britain's army was in a bad position.

Viscount Haldane admitted that there were many defects in the present volunteer system, but when the Government was asked to abandon it for compulsory service he said that he felt as a man might who was asked to sell his consols and invest the money in a speculative gold mine.

The existing system he maintained was the natural outcome of Great Britain's strategic geographical position and the only system possible for an island Empire like Britain. Referring to Lord Roberts's suggestion of an army of 1,000,000 men, he said that he could not see the necessity for such a huge force.

"We are now," he continued, "engaged in negotiations with the United States for a possible treaty of arbitration. The German Chancellor has spoken on the willingness of his country to exchange naval information with us, a course which if adopted would tend to diminish war scares."

"The risk of war with France and Russia appears less likely now than it has for some time and the peoples of all lands are beginning to show signs of a desire to have diminished the tremendous burdens of armaments."

"Is this the time for us to talk of increasing our armaments? I think that it is true that the commander of the forces of this country is neither a soldier nor a sailor, but the Foreign Secretary. Let us beware, lest in the desire to better our condition we make it worse."

A number of speakers followed and adjournment was taken.

### Irregular System of Post Office

We know of no other Government institution except the Custom House that makes more money than the Post Office in Limon. It is the most important Government Office, and in proportion to its importance is its lack of consistency. One would be surprised to know the number of letters from abroad that pass through the hands of its employees daily. Although Limon is not by any means a large town and its population not very great they patronize the Post Office extensively.

The inhabitants of Limon today, we believe, is not less than 8,000 persons; the greater part being foreigners—most of which are Jamaicans. It goes without saying that those who have their relatives and friends have to do a great deal of correspondence. The inland post is very extensive, not less than three to four bags of mails leave the office for the out-going trains. These output alone net a decent sum, irrespective of what is post-ed on the train.

A visit to the Post Office on Mondays would serve to convince a lay person of the amount of trade that is done by this Government institution. From early morning—seven o'clock—the office is besieged by anxious crowds to purchase stamps for registering and posting their correspondence. In many instances persons have to be at their places of business at a regular hour and having no one to do their posting have to do it themselves. To do this job for one's self is a pleasure, because no one can please another like himself, but when it comes to remaining at the Post Office for at least half an hour before a stamp can be bought, and after purchasing same (not without being jostled) have to remain in a motly crowd for hours before he can be attended to by the clerk that registers letters, thus jeopardizing one's employment.

We have much sympathy for the postal authorities and we know like other Government offices their hands will be filled at times but if proper arrangements are made for such days, the distressing annoyance that now prevails will be averted and less complaints made.

In other countries provisions are made for those days. So as not to create a black couple of extra hands are generally employed to facilitate matters. We do not see why this cannot be done here too, the daily receipt of this office affords extra hands, which is a positive necessity. The public demands a better service for their money, and rightly too, for they contribute largely to the upkeep of this thriving town, and that being so, then, less trouble and inconvenience should be given in this department.

We trust the chief of this Government department will investigate in this matter and apply a speedy remedy ere things get worse.

### Another Destructive Fire At Colon.

#### HEAVY LOSSES.

It would appear as if Colon is doomed to go under ashes. It was only recently a large conflagration swept the town and now there come news of another disastrous fire which broke out yesterday morning, laying low five houses. From what can be gathered the fire occurred at "Del Trente Street." We hope to be able to give further details later.

### Extensive Robbery.

Artavia's Shoe Store, in Second Street, next door to Lazarus' Cloth Store was entered on Sunday night last and robbed of boots and shoes to the amount of \$360.00. The store was securely locked up on Saturday night last, and much to the surprise of the Manager when he opened it to find that most of the boots were missing. He quickly made an inspection of the place and discovered that a thief or thieves had gained entrance through a large hole in the back of the place. The work of the rascals was simply clean. It appeared as if a nail clincher was used to draw the nails from three boards so that the body of a man could enter; no boards were destroyed.

only removed. A few feet from the store were found two pairs of boots and a jacket belonging to the Manager of the store.

### Current News.

The "Santa Rosa" left here on Sunday night last for Colorado Bar with passengers in transit for Graytown, Nicaragua. Among the passengers were Dr. Evans.

The s.s. "Eparita" left this port for Boston on Sunday last with the following passengers: F. C. Warner, W. R. Jones, Miss Rosa Farrer, Dr. J. W. Begg and wife, Master John Begg, Miss Felice Begg, Mrs. C. K. Curie, Master Gibson Pirie, Miss Margaret Pirie, Christina Soto, Bernarda Umaná, Eco. Bonilla C., Eco. Montealegre and William Scott.

WANTED.—Bright boy at W. nancy's pharmacy.

### What the People of Squires want to Know

We want to know why the D. C. L. of the United Fruit Company is so much delayed in our business? Is he the only employed repulse of huge trust?

We want to know why no arrest was made among the fighters on the night of the 18th inst. Was this negligence due to favoritism on the part of the police? We pause for answer.

We want to know why the distinguished ocellist named Mack in a thovring around his fishing ground any more and the people of Poca-a-b's hisid di him weth whip but we will chastise him with scorpion.

We want to know why did our little cousin wear that peculiarly dressed merry widow on Sunday evening. We think she is a little too old for that style. Take it off you naughty little girl.

We want to know why Mrs. Blackwhite is so much in love with that heavy basile. As a few flies are able to sport the contents of a whole jar of cream so is she able to bring our modern fashions into disrepute.

We want to know why they will not paint "The New Arrival." Are they awaiting the return of that ducky from the West Indies?

We want to know when will the new freight bodega be erected at this station. We are patiently waiting for this satisfaction. We would if the Administrador del ferrocarril will hear our supplication.

We want to know if it is no high time that our Aunt Betsy be done away with that "John Canoe" style of dressing. We are ashamed of Auntie. We cannot help it.

We have the pleasure to put to order of estimated public the

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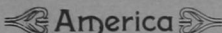
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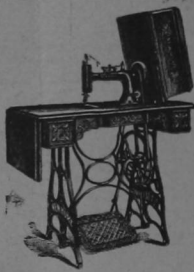
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BELISARIO RAMÍREZ JURADO pp. Peña Hnos., AVELINO DE LA PEÑA Limón, 4 de febrero de 1911.

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