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EDITORIAL

## GEN. COLVILLE'S UGLY FACT.

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**T**he passage in General Colville's charges against Lord Roberts and General Kitchener, in which he says that these officers expected, indeed, ordered him to sacrifice his force of 4,000 men so as to save a corps d'elite of 500 Yeomanry, has other and deeper significance than a revelation concerning the military condition in the Transvaal. The passage is pre-eminently of sociologic value.

When General White was locked up and starving in Ladysmith; when General Methuen, along with his subaltern heads of division, was being mowed down; when General Buller was being caught in Boer traps with the regularity of clockwork, and paying dearly for it with men and ordnance:—in those dark hours of “British Glory,” just about a year ago, the news flashed from England that it took just such critical occasions to bring out “England's power, and the sources of that power.” These sources were pointed out to be the “Yeomanry.” As “Yeomanry” regiment after “Yeomanry” regiment was enlisted, and embarked to Africa, the British press, together with its echoes, the plutocratic press of America, pointed with pride to the “spirit of heroism, latent in the British Yeomanry,” and, “needing but to be roused in order to rush to the front” to retrieve all losses. With such a spirit alive in the ranks of the Yeomanry, “the old standby,” “England was safe.” And now comes General Colville and unwittingly punctures the whole bubble by betraying the fact that the much vaunted about “Yeomanry” is no “Yeomanry” at all, but a collection of city millionaire sons, who, the inference is plain, were made to feel safe on the score of their hides, and were to come off with military glory: the war was to be a fin-de-siècle sport for these capitalist cubs.

The old warning of Oliver Goldsmith is recalled by this fact. The source of English capitalist might has dried up. English, like all other capitalism, grows by devouring itself. Men have decayed while wealth increased. This could no but be so; the noise about the enlistments of the “Yeomanry” hid the fact. Now it is out.

General Colville's military counter-charges contain that which make them the most valuable of social statistics on England yet published.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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