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ST. JOHN, N. B. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1920.

THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND.

Admiral Jellicoe's report on the Battle of Jutland does not make very pleasant reading for British people; and if the whole of his report is on the same lines as the excerpts included in the cable despatch, it is not to be wondered at that the Admiralty did not want to publish it. In plain English the British seem to have been outdone in every point except courage. The Germans in maneuver, gunnery, speed and everything else seem to have outclassed the British fleet, and one begins to wonder how it was that the conflict did not end in a British defeat.

Considerable criticism has from time to time been directed at Admiral Jellicoe's conduct of affairs in connection with the engagement; and two constructions may be put upon the tone of his report. The first is that he realized the superiority in many ways of the enemy fleet, and hesitated to run his own vessels into what appeared to him to be considerable danger of defeat; and the other is that possibly his report was written with a view to offset some of the criticisms that had been so freely offered. The latter thought is perhaps an unworthy one, as probably the report was written before he had had time to learn of the criticism levelled at him. One thought, however, will force itself upon the minds of the readers of the report; and it is that had the German Admiral only been worthy to know what Jellicoe says were the facts, it may be doubted if he would have run home in quite such a hurry as he did.

The report will be regarded as rather sorry reading. The British fleet has always been regarded invincible; and anything which may tend to cast even a shadow of doubt upon that thought, is to be regretted. Even if it were by any chance not so in fact, it had been better to let other nations think so. The faults that Admiral Jellicoe enumerates could have been remedied without telling the whole world they ever existed.

QUEENS AND SUNBURY

The political situation in Queens and Sunbury appears to be somewhat unsettled. In the latter county, there seems to be a disposition to leave Mr. Mesereau in undisputed possession of the field. He is a man well liked by all his neighbors, who feel inclined to leave him alone. In Queens, the regular opposition party does not feel inclined to intervene, but it is said they would be willing to give their support to a farmer candidate provided he would undertake to keep clear of the government. At a meeting of the Farmer party held at Sackville recently, a resolution was passed in favor of opposing the government standard bearer, but whether a candidate should be put up against him or not, was left to the local committee. This committee is said to feel that opposition on the part of the Farmers would hardly be worth while unless their man could count on the votes of the Conservatives also. We learn from a very reliable source that a very strong feeling has been engendered in the county with regard to Mr. Venio's support of the Irish revolutionary cause, and this feeling is reacting on the government; and the fact that to put up a candidate would not involve any very great outlay of cash in view of the shortness of the campaign and also that all the principal issues have so recently been put before the people, is tending to make many of them desert a contest. Mr. Venio's open championship of the Irish revolutionaries has given annoyance to a great many of the electors who have in the past supported the present government party; and we learn that while these electors would not vote against their party's candidate their feeling of irritation is such as would prompt them to abstain from voting at all. Taking matters all round, the position seems to be that a farmer candidate, with the support of the Conservative electors, would have considerably more than a fighting chance of winning the seat.

THE U. S. NAVAL PROGRAMME.

Hard on the heels of the announcement of the award to President Wilson of the Nobel Peace Prize, comes another that his Naval Secretary, Mr. Daniels, is asking Congress for an appropriation of \$700,000,000 to defray the cost of a whole fleet of the latest designs in naval architecture. Not only is the United States keeping out of the League of Nations, but the naval scheme that Mr. Daniels now has on mind is on a scale unprecedented in the history of the world. It looks as though the United States expected to be the most distant future to have to make the whole world, and means to be thoroughly prepared for the task. When whole world, pretty much as it is now driving conditions in this city.

title to the Nobel prize by calling of his brilliant minister.

The programme of Secretary Daniels involves the construction of 38 vessels. The three-year programme recommended by the general board to be under way by 1924 includes the construction of three battleships, one battle cruiser, 30 light cruisers, eight gunboats, 18 destroyer leaders, 12 minelaying submarines, six cruiser submarines, four airplane carriers, three destroyer tenders and three submarine tenders.

The question which will be uppermost in the minds of most people who read this programme will be, whom does the United States expect to fight? The German navy is gone and there is only the British navy left. What saved navy Japan may have in the future, will, we imagine, depend very largely upon that of the United States. Under these circumstances, it should surely be possible to reach some agreement for a much reduced naval programme that would prevent lavish and unnecessary rival expenditures at the present time, when the world needs every dollar for reconstruction.

Representative American papers, East and West, are urging that a naval holiday should be declared and are protesting against the programme of the Secretary of the Navy. Incidentally it is not a most undemocratic system when a defeated and discredited Government and Congress are able to commit the country to a policy of such a vital nature as this?

Owing to the jingo element in both countries, the feelings between Americans and Japanese are not as cordial as lovers of peace could desire. On this account more than usual significance attaches to the remark at Geneva of Viscount Ishii that Japan must increase her armament because the United States is doing so. Defenders of increased expenditures on the American navy do not admit that they are particularly distrustful of Japan. They say that in the war many grave defects were disclosed in the navy, and that the present policy is chiefly to correct them, so that the navy may be in fact as powerful as it appears on paper.

Japan is however, in no condition financially to undertake any such naval programme as proposed for the United States. To attempt to do so would be an intolerable burden which might produce one of two results in Japan: a war upon the United States before the naval disparity between them became too great, or a social revolution. That either nation would wantonly attack the other is difficult to believe, but it is easy to see that the attitude of California to Japanese immigrants might be construed by Japan as an insult. With busy Japans in both countries it would by no means be impossible to bring about a war.

THE ISSUE GROWING CLEARER.

Hon. T. A. Crevier, leader of the newly-christened National Progressive party, made clear his position in his recent Winnipeg speech. There was no doubt as to his attitude on the fiscal question. He declared that the goal of the party was the elimination of protection as a principle in the Dominion's fiscal policy, a goal to be reached by easy stages. This makes the issue clear between the National Progressive party and the Government. The fight will be between a party which believes in free trade and proposes to enforce it and a party which is in favor of the principle of protection sufficient to retain in Canada all its industries. The electors can have no doubt in future as to how and what they are voting for. If they believe in protection, as East Elgin electors told the Tariff Commission they did, then there is but one way to get it—vote for it.

Incidentally the London Free Press points out, it is interesting to note that Canada is the only country today which is distinguished by an aggressive movement for free trade. In the United States a high tariff party has been returned to power and the farmers are the strongest factor for increased protection. In Australia protection is the policy of practically all parties. Japan and the Orient has adopted protection. The old world through the operation of exchange has a natural and valuable protection in addition to high protective tariffs in nearly every European country. Great Britain is the only country which has a pretense to free trade, and much of it is pretense. For instance, the embargo on Canadian cattle is nothing but a most strenuous form of protection under another name.

"Motor-car upsets carriage and painfully injures occupants, then picks up another vehicle and drags it through streets." "Street car and truck collide, both badly damaged." The foregoing are two headlines from one of yesterday's papers, and fairly indicate the conditions which prevail in this city.

"The Maritime Provinces have no more right to ask that the Pacific Provinces should not get their natural resources," says the Calgary Alberta. "than the Pacific Provinces have the right to ask that the Maritime Provinces should not be permitted to be left in control of their education." To this The Sydney Record retorts that some education in fairness seems to be needed in the Calgary paper office, for the Maritime Provinces are not asking that Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta be refused control of their natural resources. What they demand is that property in which they have an interest shall not be disposed of by the Dominion Government without compensation to them.

The proposed embargo upon various kinds of Canadian farm produce, including potatoes and wheat, being admitted to the United States must necessarily have very serious effects upon the farming interests of this country. Now Brunswick potato growers in particular will be hit very hard; and those of them who have been looking forward to and depending upon continued high prices will suffer severely. The fact that the proposed embargo has the support of both parties to Congress, practically ensures its passage.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Getting Off the Track.
 The Philippines will continue their agitation for independence. These simple people seem to have taken seriously the talk about self-determination in Congress. They should know that the doctrine is intended to apply only to the British Empire.—Toronto Globe.

Briefly Put.
 Eighty-five per cent of what is raised in Ontario is sold in Ontario towns—towns unmatched anywhere in the world. "Do we want to destroy them?" a speaker in East Elgin asked, and answered: "We will if we monkey with the tariff."—Kingston Whig.

The Unnecessary Revolver.
 Seldom is a court of criminal assize held in this city in which a revolver does not figure in one case or another. Two men are now expiating behind prison bars offences of which they were found guilty at the last sittings who would probably have been at liberty today had they not possessed themselves of weapons which, in the language of the Ottawa Journal, are "useless in time of peace for any purpose except vicious violence by one human being to another."—Vancouver World.

Not To Say Stepping-Stones.
 In closing, she asked that the hinges of their friendship never grow rusty but always be links in the golden chain of fellowship.—Mining Gazette.

A Splendid Recovery.
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Earl Stallard are the proud parents of an eight-pound boy, born at the Municipal Hospital this morning. Mr. Stallard will be able to resume his duties as county agricultural agent by tomorrow.—Waykesha (Wis.) Item.

Natural Objection.
 "The Allied not disapproving the return of King Constantine caused surprise if not consternation in this city," said a despatch from Athens Saturday. The gentlemen who carried a pole into an Ontario court room was also reported to be greatly surprised when the judge objected.—Regina Post.

THE LAUGH LINE

WHAT OTHERS SAY—
 Nothing New.
 "Right makes might," says President Wilson, as though announcing a scientific principle. The Magna Carta of old English King John enunciated the same truth, and it is not practiced always, has been taught ever since.—Guelph Mercury.

A Noble Mission.
 It is a Catholic bishop from Australia who is striving to bring about a "truce of God" in Ireland before Christmas. His is a blessed and holy mission, and he is an offset to that other Australian prelate Archbishop Mannix.—Hamilton Herald.

Puzzled.
 Premier Drury announces that the farming population of Ontario has been declining for several years, which seems to show that the Michigan farmers who are also disappearing are not moving across the border.—Detroit Free Press.

Mother used to tell both father and daughter when to change to winter wear, but father is now the only one who pays any attention.—Canton News.

The Old Refrain.
 Oh, dear him roar;
 Oh, dear him roar;
 (The cranky man)
 "They shut that door!"

You've Met Them?
 Some people are content with being up to date, but there are others who borrow trouble two or three years ahead.

ANOTHER BREAD CUT
 Pittsburgh, Dec. 16.—Average cost of one and one-half cents to the price of a loaf of bread is announced by a majority of the wholesale bakers here. Under the new prices, standard loaves selling at 13 cents and 17 cents will be sold for 10 cents and 15 cents. The new prices is within two and a half cents of the pre-war level.

A Bad Omen.
 (Hamilton Spectator.)
 Production of the deadliest poison gas by leading nations is a very serious preparation for universal peace. The suffocation is especially quite a few days ahead.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

I was hiding a house out of cards up in ma's room this afternoon, and jest wen I got it almost built it all fell down, me saying, Aw heck, thats a heck of a note, heck.
 Benny, you're bin using that word intirely too much lately, sed ma.
 Aw heck, ma, hecks a good word, I sed.
 Well it sounds like a bad one and I dont want to hear you say it agen, sed ma.
 Well s ma, heck, I mean goah, I sed.
 You herd wat I sed, sed ma.
 And she kopp on darning holes out of socks and I started to bid the house agen, and jest wen I was putting the last card on carell as anything they all fell down agen, me saying, Aw heck, aw crock.
 Benny, sed ma.
 Wats the matter, ma, I didnt say it, cant I even say heck or crock? I sed, and ma sed, No.
 Aw sneek, I sed.
 Do you want me to tell your father? sed ma, and I sed, Wy, wat did I say, sneek aint anything, wats sneek?
 If plane English isent good enuff for you, dont tawk at all, sed ma.
 Well suppose I say heck, ma, will that be all rite? I sed.
 It will not, sed ma.
 Aw g, holey smokes, ma, heck, I sed.
 The answer to that is this, sed ma. And she reetched over and gave me a ferse crack, me saying, Ow, hay ma, you didnt say anything about heck.
 Didnt I, well maybe you'd like to try a few more variations and see wat happens, sed ma.
 Wish I didnt.

A BIT OF VERSE

TWO COUNTRIES.

I vow to thee, my country—all earthly things above,
 Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love.
 The love that asks no question; the love that stands the test,
 That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
 The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
 The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago—
 Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that now—
 We may not count her armies; we may not see her King;
 Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering—
 And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
 And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.
 —Sir Cecil Spring Rice.



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