

## The Career of Admiral Beatty

Recent Promotion Receives  
General Approval.

Knows His Way Into Kiel Canal  
—Changes May Lead to More  
Active Naval Offensive.

There has been much intelligent comment in prominent American papers upon the recent changes in the British navy

commands, which are universally approved. It is natural that any promotion for Sir David Beatty, should give satisfaction in the United States, for the admiral's wife was Miss Field, of Chicago, the only daughter of the late Marshall Field. Sir David, moreover, has many friends in the American navy, for he is associated with them at the time of the Boxer rising in China, when he was in command of the battleship *Bardeur*. Conliffe Owen in the *New York Times* says that he showed great pluck and resourcefulness in connection with the capture of two Chinese batteries. At the end of two hundred bluejackets he was twice wounded, the result being that he was promoted to the rank of captain, though only twenty-nine years old. He had been under fire before, when he took command of the gunboat *Stella* on the Nile. Admiral Colville having been wounded,

and fought the enemy determinedly. As a reward for his gallantry at Omdurman he was made a commander and invested with the D. S. O.

### Some Beatty Stories.

The story told of Beatty, when in charge of the British squadron visiting Kronstadt, draining a huge bumper of champagne without taking the beaker from his lips, and thus making a profound impression upon his hosts, is widely quoted. Indeed it is said that this feat of what one might call draughts-manship he contributed more than he or his officers could have done in any other way to the success of the visit that proved so fertile in political results. Not so favorable was the impression he created in Kiel when in 1913 he and his squadron visited that port to greet the Kaiser. Night had fallen before

Kiel was reached and as there was dense fog the people of Kiel supposed that the British squadron would anchor outside. To their astonishment when they awoke in the morning they found the British ships lying at anchor in port. It could not have been entirely agreeable for them to feel that Beatty knew his way into Kiel harbor at night and in a thick fog, and required not even a German pilot.

### Kaiser as Naval Strategist.

On this visit the Kaiser, as was his wont, feted the visiting sailors in royal style, and was profuse in his compliments to their commander. Sir David Beatty was invited to dine with His Majesty one evening and after dinner the table was cleared and the order given for beer and fifteen boxes of matches. Spreading out the matches the Kaiser proceeded to instruct the visiting British officers as to how ships ought to be handled in modern conditions of naval warfare. He manipulated the little sticks with such ingenuity and daring that the fleet he supposed himself to be commanding achieved a remarkable victory. Subsequently Beatty was asked for his opinion of the Kaiser's strategy, and briefly replied: "Extraordinarily clever for an amateur, but hopelessly futile in real warfare."

### Friends of Royalty.

Sir David Beatty and his wife are said to enjoy to an unusual degree the friendship of King George and Queen Mary. They have been neighbors for several summers, for Lady Beatty leased a castle near Balmoral, where the Beattys frequently entertain the King and Queen. The friendship of the two ladies is said to be all the more remarkable in view of the Queen's well known dislike of divorcees, and Lady Beatty before becoming the wife of the British sailor was Mrs. Arthur M. Tree, of Chicago, whom she divorced, and who has since died. Though at the time when Queen Mary showed marked pleasure in Lady Beatty's society her first husband was living. Notwithstanding the Royal favor which Sir David is known to possess, it has never been hinted that his rapid promotion has had any other cause than his own merits. Nobody is jealous of him; officers and men alike rejoice that he should have been given supreme command of the Grand Fleet, and have the utmost confidence that under Beatty they will be given an opportunity of renewing that argument with Germany which was disappointingly broken off in the Skagerrack.

### Praise for Jellicoe.

In the American papers which have commented upon the changes there is a general disposition to give Sir John Jellicoe full praise, and to realize that as First Sea Lord he has received promotion. Some of them seem to believe that Sir Henry Jackson at the Admiralty was responsible for the abandonment of the traditional British naval policy of attack, and expect that tremendous sea is the problem involved in bringing the German into action it will be solved by Jellicoe and Beatty. It ought to be borne in mind, too, that Jellicoe has had an experience in actual warfare that should be of great advantage to him in the Admiralty. Before the beginning of this war nobody had any such experience, and it was necessary that a naval man without experience in modern naval warfare should be First Sea Lord. As time passed, however, and the experience was acquired, it was only common sense that the Admiralty should have the advantage of it. The changes in the naval high command, therefore, cannot be classed among the changes that ought to have been made long ago.

### Queer Little Economies.

Writing of war economies in country houses, the *Club Window Gossip* of the *Liverpool Post*, remarks that some are quite funny. One peer, who has saved twenty thousand pounds and put it into war loans, besides giving the government all his American securities, has prohibited coffee after lunch, and will not have both ham and tongue on the side table for the same meal. Another peer has insisted that all his particularly elaborate stamped notepaper shall be on half-sheets and that lump sugar should not be in the sugar bowls, only coffee sugar—which is really more expensive because so much more is needed to sweeten the tea. A great many country families are not making jam this year owing to the cost of sugar.

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