

Berlin papers took a more sensible view, but the majority showed themselves sadly lacking in sense of perspective. If this sort of thing continues the Admiralty will have to devise some means of muzzling retired officers, although such a course might materially affect the activity of the Navy League. The German Navy League has been even more successful than the English in promoting naval expansion.

THE Japanese have scored another great victory over the Russians, again on sea. The Baltic squadron, re-enforced by a number of other vessels, were passing the Straits of Corea on May 27 and Admiral Togo, backed by the Japanese fleet attacked the Russian fleet, sinking two battleships and five cruisers, besides some minor vessels, and securing the surrender of two battleships and of 2,000 prisoners. Thus the last remnant of Russian naval power in the vicinity of the Sea of Japan is swept out of existence. It looks as if the ships of the Japanese navy were superior, especially in the quality of the guns and the skill of the gunners. The probability is that half a dozen of the crack Japanese ships peppered the enemy at long distance and simply had them at their mercy. There remains the squadron of Russian vessels at Vladivostok to be disposed of or kept bottled up, as it may be presumed that a small blockading squadron detached from the Japanese main fleet would be sufficient to lock the Russian squadron in the harbor.

IT seems a little bit peculiar that towards the close of each fiscal year, provided the session of parliament is not over, that several of the public departments at Ottawa should run short of funds and be unable to pay even the salaries of the public employees and officials. At the present moment, for instance, the officials of the House of Commons have not been paid for a couple of months, and in other departments of the public service similar shortage prevails. The reason for this is that the appropriation made during last session of parliament for the year ending June 30, 1905, is exhausted, and as

parliament has not disposed of the public business, the supply bill is still before the House, and the additional appropriation, not having received the assent of the Crown, is not available for use. Whatever the reason is, the government of Canada has been bankrupt for weeks in respect of several of its departments and services. One would think that some means could be found to overcome the difficulty because it must be remembered that in addition to the salaries of officials, accounts of merchants and manufactures are all held up until parliament provides the additional money. Perhaps there is no way over it but as we started out by saying it does seem to be peculiar.

THE death which occurred at Ottawa on May 29, of the Hon. William Macdougall, removed one of the few remaining Fathers of Confederation. In the early days of the history of this confederation, and before he loomed large on the political horizon. Born in Toronto 83 years ago, he was a publisher of various newspapers, and was the leading political writer on the Toronto Globe for some years prior to 1860. He entered government in the Sandfield Macdonald Administration as far back as 1862 and was the first Dominion Minister of Public Works. He was one of the three Reformers chosen to enter the Tache-Macdonald administration formed as a coalition government for the purpose of carrying confederation, and achieved some notoriety subsequently by remaining in the administration under Sir John Macdonald after his Reform colleagues had retired. He defended his course before a public meeting of Reformers held in Toronto. He was an effective platform speaker, a man of wide information and undoubted ability. He retired from parliament in 1882, and his last contestation was in 1887 when he was unsuccessful. Of late years he has been practically an invalid. At the time of his death he was the senior Privy Councillor in Canada. Taken all round, and looking at his long and varied career, he was a man of whom any nation might be proud.