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WHAT IS A DREADNOUGHT?

Judging by the nature of the replies which appear on another page, not a few usually well informed people have but a hazy idea how to satisfactorily answer a question that is very pertinent these days: "What is a Dreadnought?" We are, most of us, aware, of course, that a Dreadnought is a battleship of the highest and latest type, but in what respect this class of vessel differs from other battleships is not so apparent. Canada is about to take the place her birthright gave her, side by side with the Mother Country, bearing a share of the burden of Imperial Defence. In this defence in the Empire's interests the Dreadnought is the first line, and the last word. To more fully appreciate the situation it is an advantage to know the class of fighting ship on which, in all probability, our country's contribution will be spent.

The Dreadnought has been well and briefly described as the "all-big-gun" ship. The honor of creating this last word in naval construction belongs, as it should rightly belong, to Great Britain, the Mistress of Seas. Six years ago, in 1906, "The Dreadnought," of 17,900 tons, with a length of 490 feet, was launched the first of her type. The pattern of her armament has since been copied with certain variations by every first class naval power in the world. "The original Dreadnought" carried ten 12-inch guns, of which eight were on the broadside, "three turrets on the middle line and two abreast on beams."

The above technical reference, it should, perhaps, be explained, means that on the Dreadnought of 1906 two guns are in each of three turrets, placed at intervals down "the middle line" of the ship, and can be turned to fire a broadside of six guns on either side. The two turrets "abreast on beams" are placed one on each side of the middle line at right angles to the keel of the ship. Each of these turrets has two guns which can contribute to a broadside on their own side of the ship—making eight guns to a broadside.

It must be stated that the credit of evolving an all-big-gun ship does not belong to Great Britain alone. Several of the other Powers took a hand in the early stages of this development. For many years prior to the building of the Dreadnought naval competition between the Powers had been essentially one of numbers. Germany was the only country that had made any considerable variation in the size and power of battleships. In 1901 Italy took the first step towards the modern all-big-gun ship by the addition of intermediate guns to the secondary batteries in the battleships Benedetto Brin and Regina Margherita. These ships were armed with four 12-inch, four 8-inch, and twelve 6-inch guns.

Two years later, in 1903, Great Britain took the second step and the King Edward class of ships was equipped with four 9.2-inch guns in their intermediate batteries. In the following year, 1904, the United States gave the Georgia class the same armament. Italy had adopted three years earlier, and followed up this step in the ensuing year by equipping the Connecticut class with 7-inch in place of 6-inch guns. In 1906 Great Britain launched the Lord Nelson and the Agamemnon provided with four 12-inch and ten 9.2-inch guns. This saw the end, as far as the Mother Country was concerned, of the principle of mixed armaments. Her naval experts, who had been carefully watching the situation, had already decided that the increase in the calibre of the secondary and intermediate batteries had proved the all-round effectiveness of an all-big-gun ship.

When Great Britain's Dreadnought, the first of her class, was launched, with ten 12-inch guns, and when the design was repeated in the British ships which followed her, there came a pause in the progress of the world's naval construction. The Powers stopped awhile to think over what this new engine of war meant. For eighteen months there was a whole lot of thinking done to find the "answer." As might naturally be expected from the present situation Germany made the first reply and responded with four slightly larger ships of the Nassau type, armed with twelve 11-inch, twelve 5.9-inch, and sixteen 3.4-inch guns. This "answer" was by no means effective for two reasons. In the first place, it will be observed, Germany's 11-inch gun is inferior to Great Britain's 12-inch gun; and in the second place, although two more heavy guns are mounted, only eight, the same number as in Great Britain's Dreadnought, bear on the beam.

Germany remedied the first of these faults in the subsequent construction of the ships of the Ostfriesland and Kaiser classes, which are equipped with 12-inch guns; but the original disposition of the guns is maintained, eight guns only bearing on the beam. The superiority of the German 12.3-inch gun to the British 12-inch gun is heavily discounted by the fact that the latest type of the British 12-inch gunned ships can fire the whole ten guns on the broadside.

It may be of interest here to quote Mr. Churchill's forecast of the number of Dreadnoughts and battle cruisers which will be in commission for Great Britain and Germany at the end of 1912, 1914 and 1915:

Great Britain. Germany.

Dreadn'ts. Cruisers. Dreadn'ts. Cruisers.

1912 .. 18 .. 8 .. 13 .. 4

1914 .. 24 .. 9 .. 16 .. 5

1915 .. 27 .. 10 .. 17 .. 6

There have been changes and improvements, of course, in the armament of Dreadnoughts since 1906. One of the principle problems to be solved by the naval experts of the Admiralty lay in the fact that adding to the number of guns increased the dimensions of the ship. In British designs it was at first sought to avoid much of this increase, and at the same time to combine a powerful end-on fire with a full broadside, by placing two turrets diagonally across the deck. The system was abandoned. It was realized by the Admiralty's experts that, Dreadnoughts being designed specially for broadside fighting, end-on fire was of infinitesimal importance; and also that in placing two turrets diagonally across the deck, the turret on one beam could cover only a very small angle on the opposite side.

With the construction of the super-Dreadnought, Orion, laid down in November, 1909, launched in 1910, and now in commission, the all-guns-on-the-middle-line arrangement was finally adopted by the Admiralty. The Orion shows a noteworthy advance over the Dreadnought, which gave the name to the all-guns-ships in 1906. She is of 22,500 tons with a length of 545 feet and carries ten 15-inch guns. All five turrets are on the middle line with two "superposed," that is, raised to a higher level, so that another turret can be, so to speak, "tucked away"

under the overhang of the guns. Two purposes are served by "superposing" the turrets—there is a saving of length, an all important consideration in a battleship, and the efficiency of the two superposed turrets is increased by their greater freeboard.

A phase of the naval situation long well recognized in the Mother Country, and which shows the importance of a Dreadnought Fleet, was referred to by Col. Sam Hughes, the Minister of Militia, in Vancouver this week, in giving a note of warning against underestimating a foe Col. Hughes said:

War is closer than you dream; the great peril is from Germany. Why? Because Germany must have colonies within a generation or she will begin to go down. She is building ships on borrowed money and must seek new territory. She has large numbers of citizens in the South American countries, and there are only two fields where she can find the needed outlet for her surplus population. One is along the South American seaboard, the other is in British colonies. It is well known that Germany made a tentative offer to stop shipbuilding in return for the concession of British colonies. But this will never happen so long as the old flag floats. There was grave danger last year. The world awoke one morning to find Germany established at Agadir, a port in Morocco. She meant to establish a naval base there, but Britain told her to get out. For two days war was very near. Germany has to be taught a lesson, and the lesson to be taught her is that Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand are behind the Mother Country. We know that Germany was behind Kruger, and that there was a definite scheme to oust Great Britain from South Africa, but the fact that the colonies sprang to arms and saved from all quarters of the globe to the assistance of Great Britain caused the scheme to be frustrated. Now, gentlemen, the time has come when a definite plan of Empire defence must be adopted. Let it take the form of a full partnership with the Mother Country.

Germany was behind hand in acquiring new territory, in securing lands which she needs today for some of her 65,000,000 people. That an attempt was made by Germany to negotiate for the transfer of certain British possessions with the offer in return that she would curtail her naval programme is well known. "What we have we'll hold," was the Mother Country's answer. The fleet of Dreadnoughts, built and building, is the sure guarantee that this principle of the Empire will be maintained. The Dominions Overseas have a vital interest in the situation. "Now," as Col. Hughes well expresses it, "the time has come when a definite plan of Empire defence must be adopted. Let it take the form of a full partnership with the Mother Country."

A SWEEPING ASSERTION.

Dr. Forbes Winslow, at the Eugenic Congress recently held in London, England, stated that there would be more lunatics in the world than sane people in three hundred years. Dr. Forbes Winslow has been the Home Office expert to the British Government for a number of years and an opinion from him should be valuable on the subject of mental aberration. "In every part of the world," he says, in support of his prophecy, "civilization is advancing, and so insanity is bound to advance."

It is not quite clear why civilization is synonymous with lunacy, although that is the only possible interpretation that can be put on Dr. Winslow's remarks. If that is the last word of medical science on the subject we had better remain uncivilized and retain our wits. Civilization can hardly mean anything quite as disastrous as universal lunacy. The maddest man in the universe can hardly be considered the finest flower of civilization.

The Congress that Dr. Winslow was attending was in itself a refutation of his idea that civilization makes for lunacy. If a body of men and women had met fifty years ago to discuss eugenics they would have been locked up and kept in custody without the benefit of a medical examination.

THE HEAT PROBLEM.

A German hygienist, Professor Flügge, has been attempting to cope with the problem of the summer heat in city houses. The solid walls of German buildings, while slow to absorb heat, retain it proportionately longer, and electric fans and other appliances, such as used in this country, are too costly to be within the reach of the average German household.

Professor Flügge suggests, as the only practical relief measure, the construction of outer summer walls of wood, bamboo, matting, or, best of all, climbing plants, which would prevent the intense radiation of heat from the walls. His further suggestion of the establishment of "colonies" of small houses within the city, is in line with serious efforts now being made in Berlin to unsanitary districts.

Current Comment

(New York American.)

Capitalists are more willing to talk for publication nowadays than they used to be. Harrison has set an eminent example after John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie had blazoned the fact. A New York American representative once asked Harriman a question—back in the days of silence. Mr. Harriman was not disposed to reply, and said so. "You are not refusing to speak to me," rejoined the expert newspaper man, "but to two or three million people." The little wizard looked up suddenly as if shot by a new thought. "That's so," he commented. "Well, I'll tell you," and an interview for publication followed.

(Chicago Tribune.)

Now that the Senate has adopted a resolution which in plain effect broadens the scope of the Monroe doctrine, the House of Representatives will consider it more than ever a patriotic duty to weaken the navy. As we increase our responsibilities let us decrease our ability to meet them. Let the dignity of our protests and the fury of our anger be self-sufficient deterrents to any nation planning an invasion of our rights.

(Saskatoon Phoenix.)

The value of a dollar bill is still going down. The cost of living increased one per cent. this month of June over the month of May. Prices in June were near 11 per cent. higher than they were in June, 1910. Has the average wage gone up 11 per cent. in the twelve months?

(Guelph Herald.)

We scarcely think that the majority of Liberals will thank the chief organ for attempting to tie them up again to the Reciprocity band wagon which got so badly overturned last September.

(Victoria Colonist.)

The reception accorded to Mr. Borden and Mr. Hazen at the banquet tendered them by the National Liberal Club, was not the least significant of the incidents attending the visit of the Prime Minister to England.

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ing and dancing girls, but all pretty

girls are to be found in abundance

in "The Red Rose," the big John C.

Fisher musical comedy, which will

be the first big summer show to come

to St. John, and which is to appear

at the Opera House for the last three

nights of next week.

John C. Fisher has already made

himself popular here through his well

remembered productions of *Florodora*

and *The Silver Slipper*, and the news

that local theatre goers are to have

the opportunity of witnessing another

of his sprightly musical productions

is most welcome. Halifax has re-

ceived "The Red Rose" with open

arms, and there is every indication

that the success will be repeated in

St. John.

DID ANYBODY

CALL FOR THE

SPIRIT OF ABNER?

He Turned Up Unclaimed at the

Temple of Spiritualism in

New York—Rude Man Had

Long Nose.

New York, Aug. 9.—The spirit of

a man named Abner, who departed

this life some years ago, was but

one of a dozen or more spirits that

called last night to see friends at the

New York Temple of Modern Spirit-

ualism, at 133 East Twenty-seventh

street, between Lexington and Third

avenues. Abner, who was described

by a medium introduced as Mrs. Dar-

ling, was said to be a very rough man.

No one at the meeting, which was

held by a group of about fifty spir-

itualists who call themselves the Pro-

gressive Lyceum, seemed to remem-

ber Abner. Abner, another spirit

named Frank and perhaps ten other

spirits all waited outside the hall

while a girl with pink flowers in

her hat sang several solos, and an-

other girl at intervals stole up to a

piano and played a number of selec-

tions.

"I feel a tall gentleman near me,"

began Mrs. Darling, as several spirits

began to enter the hall after the mu-

sicians had finished. "Surely some

of these must be the gentleman I

remembered. He has a long nose.

Under his eye he has a mark where he

has been burned. Doesn't some one

here know this tall gentleman, who

was burned under the eye before he

passed out?"

No one seemed to recognize the

gentleman. Mrs. Darling, a middle

aged woman in white, thereupon pick-

ed up a flower, which she named one

had laid on her desk earlier in the ev-

ening. She said that along the stem

of the flower she could see the let-

ters W. L. M.

"That spells William very plainly,"

said Mrs. Darling. "He says to me, oh,

so fervently, that the lady who left

this flower here is coming to a sharp

turn, see? He says: 'Tell her to look

out, see, when she makes the turn.

Who is the lady that placed this flow-

er here?"

The girl with the pink flowers in

her hat turned to the lady who had

placed the flower on the desk.

"Yes, yes, I know who is talking to

me," she said. "William was the name

of one of my uncles. He never knew

anything about spiritualism either,"

continued the girl who sings, turning

to the unbelievers, who shook their