

The Colonist.

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THE NAVAL POLICY

The Naval Defence Bill, having passed its third reading, its enactment as law will follow as a matter of course. Differ as we may as to the wisdom of the measure, and it cannot be denied that there are grounds for a legitimate diversity of opinion, its passage can only be regarded as epoch-making. In the discussions in Parliament and in the press partisanship on both sides has been manifest, and only too many of the speakers and writers seem to have been desirous of scoring points at the expense of their opponents, rather than contributing to the solution of a great Imperial question, and the result is that much that has been said or written was of passing interest only, whereas the policy that has been adopted will be permanent. It is fitting, therefore, that we should re-examine the considerations of partisanship, as far as that is possible, and endeavor to form some estimate of just what has been done.

The issue which has been settled by the passage of the measure was between two lines of policy. In both of them there was the same fundamental principle, namely, that the time had come when Canada was in duty bound to assume some proportion of the burden of the naval defence of the Empire. There was, indeed, a question raised, namely, as to whether or not Canada should assume any responsibility of this nature, but it found so few supporters that we may say the people of the country were substantially unanimous in the opinion that something should be done towards naval defence. The variation in policy was as to the manner in which this acknowledged duty should be performed. The ministry and its supporters favored the establishment of a Canadian Navy; the Conservative party favored a direct emergency contribution to the British Navy. The former course has been adopted. The latter has not been absolutely rejected, but it has not been accepted as a substitute for the former. Nothing that Parliament has done need prevent the making of an emergency contribution at some future day. Hence, the action of Parliament may be understood as a declaration in favor of a Canadian Navy, but not as a declaration against a direct contribution to the British Navy if circumstances render it desirable that one shall at some time be made. Of course, no Parliament can bind its successors, but the point is worth making that the decision of Canada is not of necessity to be taken as adverse to direct assistance to the Mother Country, but as an adoption of the policy of establishing a navy of our own. In other words, the passage of the Bill is to be understood as the affirmative of a positive duty and intention, not as the negation of a moral obligation which may hereafter arise, if it has not already arisen. We think this distinction ought to be kept in mind.

If Parliament had determined to grant to the British Government sufficient money to build one or more battleships, the determination would have only a special and temporary significance. It would have meant that in the opinion of the representatives of the Canadian people the special circumstances now existing in naval matters required that assistance should be given the Home authorities in keeping up the standard of the Fleet. Next year, or a few years later, these conditions might be altered. Hence the policy of a contribution would be special because its necessity would have arisen out of special circumstances; it would be temporary, because the need of it might not continue and a single contribution might be called upon to do. The decision to build and maintain a Canadian Navy is the adoption of a general and permanent policy. It is general, because it has arisen out of the general development of the country and the general needs of the Empire. It is permanent from the very nature of things.

We have indulged in a little repetition because we wish Colonist readers to get the exact status of the case. The Dominion has been committed to a naval policy of its own, and to the establishment of a navy under its own control, a navy which of necessity the Canadian Government may refuse to allow to participate in the wars of the Empire. We are not making any criticism of this policy, but are simply stating it. We are unable to think of any circumstances under which such a refusal would be probable; but to understand the full significance of a policy it is advisable to state the extreme application of it. Canada as an autonomous country is to have its own navy. This decision may, and doubtless will, draw many things in its train which no one can now foresee, and which it is not necessary for us to endeavor to prognosticate, for

at the point we wish to drive home is that a new and exceedingly important departure has been taken in the development of the Dominion as an individual political entity and as one of the component parts of the British Empire.

Having thus stated the case as it stands, we may add that in our humble judgment the adoption of this policy in no way removes any obligation that may rest upon the Dominion to make an emergency contribution to the Royal Navy now or hereafter, if it shall be necessary for the purposes of Imperial defence; that there is nothing inconsistent with Canadian autonomy in such a contribution, and that there is nothing inconsistent with Canadian autonomy in the creation of a plan under which the Canadian Navy will pass automatically under the control of the Admiralty in case of war. We may also add that the adoption of this policy commits Canada to much more than appears on the surface. We have put our hands to the plough and there can be no looking back. For good or ill we have been committed to one of the most responsible and onerous obligations of nationhood. That we may be able to show ourselves equal to it, that the naval policy may be administered with efficiency and without scandal and that the good name and fame of our land may be preserved unscathed upon the sea will be the earnest hope of every true Canadian.

THE BUDGET.

The passage of the Budget on its first reading assures the adoption of the measure by Parliament, for the House of Lords will undoubtedly give its assent to the measure in due course. The Hereditary Chamber will do this, not because of any fear of retaliation in case of its rejection, but because no other course is logically open to it. The Lords never actually rejected the Budget, but only postponed it until the people could pronounce upon it. This pronouncement has been given and the leaders of the Lords have already intimated that they accept it as final.

The political situation has thus taken on a new aspect. With the passing of the Budget Mr. Asquith is placed in a much stronger position than he would be with that measure in abeyance. He will be able to choose his own time and manner of appealing to the people upon the other issues now before them. This statement must be qualified by another, namely that he must do nothing to drive the Nationalists into the camp of the Unionists, but even in the event of a defeat occurring from such a combination he would be in a position to ask for a dissolution and not be under any necessity of resigning office until after a popular vote has been recorded against him. The suggestion that the Nationalists may act with the Unionists is not as improbable as it may seem. This party once voted with the Conservatives and defeated Mr. Gladstone. The Unionists may raise some question upon which it may suit the purposes of the Nationalist leaders to vote against the government. If they do not take this course it may be inferred that there is some tacit agreement between them and Mr. Asquith.

Mr. Asquith's greatest difficulty is yet to come. It will arise out of his proposal to curtail the vast power of the Lords, as it is almost certain that Mr. Asquith can either ask for a dissolution or for the creation of new peers. Prophecy in politics is a dangerous pastime, and so we shall not venture any prediction as to what may happen, further than to say that such an important change in the constitution as is contained in this proposal is hardly likely to be made without an expression of popular opinion at the polls.

Halifax is talking of a first-class reception to the Niobe, when she reaches that port. We must keep this in mind when the Rainbow comes here.

The whole world is watching by the bedside of Mark Twain. The hope that his life may be prolonged will be universal, but he is evidently drawing very near the Border Land.

The New York Commercial thinks that the United States government ought to seek to divert the movement of population to the Southern States, so as to prevent the filling up of Canada with so many desirable citizens. The difficulty about this sort

of thing is that the South cannot offer what these people want, and it has drawbacks, which are not easily overcome.

A diagram in the Scientific American shows the position in which Halley's comet will be on May 2. It will be visible in the Eastern sky just before dawn and not very far above the horizon. It will be a little higher up than Venus, which is morning star, and a little to the left.

Here is a picture which the Ottawa Free Press draws of Sir Ernest Shackleton, the Antarctic explorer: "Picture a man who doesn't look to be more than 80 years of age, with a magnificent pair of shoulders which the tailor has no need to supplement, and a chest which would be the envy of every gymnasium instructor. In Canada, of medium height, straight black hair parted a fraction of an inch to the left of the centre, a fine full face with the ruddy glow of health upon the cheeks, and you have the hero of the farthest South." That reads as if the original was a fellow who could do things, and certainly Sir Ernest has shown that he can. He is as modest as he is fearless.

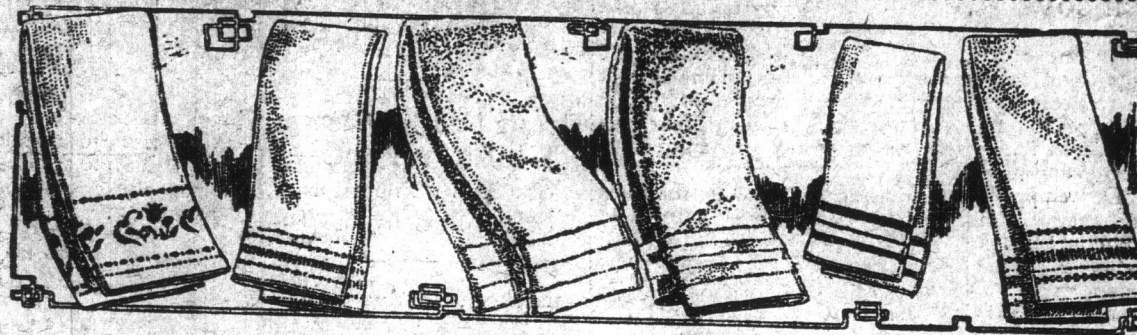
When Sir Wilfrid Laurier was discussing the tariff agreement with the United States he mentioned that feathers and artificial flowers were among the articles upon which reduced rates are to be imposed, and in a semi-serious way added that commercial peace was worth all the feathers and artificial flowers in creation. A solemn British contemporary discusses this as the assertion of an economic principle, and is inclined to take exception to it. Sir Wilfrid will have to be careful as to the way he embellishes his rhetoric. He is a little given to Bible quotations, and before he knows it some one will read a theological significance into his words and charge him with heterodoxy. What a pity it is that so many newspaper writers have so little sense of humor.

Senator Gordon of Mississippi is very greatly disturbed over the problem presented by the negro population of that state. Most of the blacks are armed with the old Springfield rifles, which were formerly in use in the United States army and have been sold recently for a small sum. The Senator fears that the negroes thus armed may at any time combine to do great harm. He says that many white planters are abandoning their homes because they dare not trust their wives and daughters alone for a single hour. This condition of things is insufferable, and may lead to violence and the ruthless extermination of the blacks. The white population of Mississippi could not undertake this themselves, because they are a minority, but they would not lack assistance if they needed it.

The issue, that has been raised in the United States House of Representatives in which the power of the Speaker of that body is involved, is the outcome of the construction of the rules of that body put upon them by Mr. Cannon. The rules are not new. When Mr. Reed was Speaker the same rules were in force, and it will be remembered that the manner in which he applied them won for him the epithet of the "Czar." Under Mr. Cannon, Mr. Reed's decisions have been pushed even further than they were originally intended to go. It has been a case of liberty being slowly narrowed up by precedent and precedent. So serious has the evil become that it is no longer possible to look upon the House of Representatives as a deliberative body. That there is a change imminent is admitted by all observers.

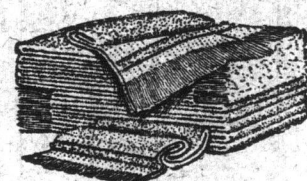
A very interesting gathering of astronomers is to be held at the observatory on Mount Wilson, near Los Angeles next August. The object of the gathering is the study of solar phenomena. One of the subjects which will be inquired into is the apparently repulsive force that resides in the sun, and to which the formation of the tails of comets and certain other things are attributed. One theory is that light has a certain propelling power, and drives minute particles of matter before it, just as dust is carried before the wind. Another matter to be investigated is the cause and nature of the magnetic fluid, which exists in the whirlpools seen in the sun's atmosphere. The solar protuberances will also be studied, those marvellous expressions of energy, supposed to consist of fountains of molten metal thrown upwards for a height sometimes exceeding a quarter of a million miles.

Watch our window displays. There's much of interest shown—new ideas in all lines.



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Built to Stand Lots of Hard Use—Priced to Suit You



As the weather grows warmer there'll be many additions to the "morning tub" faddists. The chilly winter thins their ranks, but spring helps swell them again. If you take the "morning plunge" you'll want some extra towels, and you'll want good ones—the sort to which we wish to draw your attention. The greatest benefit of the morning "tub" comes from a brisk rub, and to properly do this you must have a good towel. From this stock of ours you can select towels that'll stand all sorts of strenuous use, both in the bathroom and in the laundry. And a pleasing feature is the low price.

We have just received a big shipment of splendid white Turkish towels, and if you are looking for good towels and good towel values, better see these. Priced at from 65c to 35c.

The Rubdry is a splendid bath towel. A coarse weave of Egyptian cotton that "soaks up water like a blotter." It's the towel you see advertised and the towel that is favored in the leading universities and clubs of the U. S. We stock these in the better grades. Large, long-wearing towels. Each in separate package, at \$1.35 and \$1.00.



Special Show of Scotch Madras

Muslins—A Big Shipment of New Creations Just Received

One of the most popular Spring and Summer curtain materials is Madras Muslin. If it is good there are few materials that can equal it for this purpose. If you would see something worth while—would see the best in Madras, come in and see these new Scotch Madras Muslins just received.

Recent arrivals combining with this latest addition, gives us a splendid assortment of this popular line. The patterns this season are much above the average, and many charming new creations are to be found among the many offered. These are of the finest quality—coming from the largest Scotch factory. Brighten up your home with some of these. Price is a minor consideration, for we have these priced at, per yard, 75c, 60c, 50c and 40c.

Cretonnes, Chintzes, Poplins, Challis and Other Materials

Never has such a splendid display of Spring and Summer Curtain and Drapery Materials been attempted—never such a choice offered Victorians. We have many beautiful creations in cretonnes, chintzes, poplins, challis and other lines, and the most delightful summer curtains and draperies may be produced through the medium of these.

We would appreciate an opportunity to show you some of these. Don't be afraid to come in and ask. There's not the slightest obligation to purchase. See them on the second floor.

Here Are "Classy" Scotch Nets

Some of the Most Beautiful Creations We Have Ever Shown

In the language of the "street"—"classy" is the word. These new Scotch Lace Nets are the most beautiful we have ever shown in this establishment. Some of the newest and smartest patterns ever produced are included, and the display is one that few would expect to see outside of very large centres.

These are Cable Lace—the original cross ground, unbreakable net. They are the production of the largest Scotch factory—a factory that leads the World in such lines. We want you to come in and let us show you these, and let our salesmen explain a few of the decorative possibilities of such materials. We have them in ecru and white, and the prices are easy. We have them at, per yard, \$1.25, 85c, 75c and 45c.

Some New, White Marseilles Quilts in Today

A very important addition to the Manchester department during the past week is a line of new white Marseilles Quilts. The homemaker who takes a pride in keeping the bedroom neat and stylish will be delighted with these productions and pleased and surprised at the splendid values these pricings represent.

They come from a leading Manchester house making a specialty of just such lines. Quality, finish and style the very best. Direct importation means a saving of middlemen's profits and better values for you. Come in and see these. Priced at \$5.50 and \$4.00.

Other recent arrivals in the same line and from the same factory also await your inspection. These are lower in price, but of splendid quality, and for the woman looking for something in this line at an easy price, these offer a happy solution. Priced at \$3.50 and \$3.00.

An Excellent Assortment of Ladies' Desks

The lady who has longed for a desk—a stylish, conveniently arranged piece of furniture, where her writing materials may be stored and where the otherwise hard task of letter-writing is made a pleasure—cannot do better than inspect the present very complete showing of ladies' desks now offered on the third floor.

Just at present our stock is very complete—much the best assortment we have shown for a long time. Broad choice in the matter of woods, finishes, styles and pricings. Fact is, there's a desk style to suit every requirement.

We have these desks in either golden elm, golden oak finish, golden oak, finely English oak and Circassian walnut. All well built and early finished.

Prices start as low as \$6.00.

Combination Secretary Bookcases from, each, \$25

This is a popular furniture piece with a great many, and is certainly a most convenient piece to have in the home. We have quite a good selection of attractive styles and offer you some good values. See them in golden oak, priced from \$25.

No better place for wedding gifts—hundreds of suggestions in this stock.

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ENGLISH SOV

Henry VII. was one arch that ever sat upon land, and in some respect compared with the great His most conspicuous vice for he adopted every fill his coffers, and em with the judges to secure advantages. Lord Bacon's justice was administered when the King was a par trade in a large way, and amass wealth that led hi Sebastian Cabot on the which gave England her land and Canada. He hliamentary restraint. Afte vited thereo only a min This he did in order that formal sanction of his act on the battlefield. The that Parliament should yearly was disregarded, b abundant precedents in th VI., and during the latter came to the conclusion that very well without any ass had in the reign of Henry governing power of the nat

The reason of the decay two-fold. As was mention ceding article of this series and the Wars of the Roses, baronage. When Henry c there were only fifty-two b kingdom, and among these pear to have been many w the men, who had held the days gone by. The Comm generate. Originally the str mons had lain in the por but the boroughs had pass of the guilds, and the guilds close corporations. No long man entitled to a voice in country, but in the cities, a who had served the apprent by the guilds. Many of the the control of the more po little more than a form. If it of their independence, self-g have passed away in Engl not requiring money for fo having more wealth derived estates and from forfeiture trade than he had any use fo, sary for him to invoke the nation. There seems to sire on the part of the memb to meet. Instances are told elected to the House of Co away to avoid going to the se hunted down by the sheriffs cry. The country was at pea all the people cared for. Afte of foreign and domestic strif forded by the firm and not of Henry gave profound satisfac body of the nation. There ceased to be regarded as a national welfare, and Henry b an absolute monarch as Engla

As a diplomatist he far su his predecessors, and has be none of his successors excep Edward VII. It was his dip tablished the Low Countries, once called, as independent Germany. That Holland and dependent states is due to the ated by him. He strengthen abroad by a marriage betwe Arthur and Catherine of Arag the young prince died after a married life, he was able to per that there were no insuperabl the union of the young widow band's brother, afterwards He sought to bring abo peace with Scotland, and object gave his daughter marriage to James, King of try. When his counsellors ob such a marriage England mig the sovereignty of Scotland, He "No, the greater will draw to t result of this marriage led to th crowns of the two kingdoms up James I., the founder of the English kings.

The time of Henry VII. was mental activity. Not long bef the throne the art of printing types had been invented, and C troduced it into England. The pean world was in a state of exp route around the Cape to Ind known. Columbus pointed out new world. Books were multi cially books of travel, which fo able readers. The Bible was m to the mass of the people. A sp into matters religious and s abroad. The whole horizon of hu tion had been widened, and Co piloted mankind through the st Among the domestic matters a land, which marked this reign, a viding that persons should not be been guilty of treason because and supported the person who for ing occupied the throne, no mar title, tended to create a feeling of Statute of Laborers was an atte late the labor question, which, things, provided a maximum of which no laborer should be entit