

Naval Mobilization.

The military authorities having set the example of mobilizing the army for the defence of our shores, it certainly would not be out of place were the naval authorities to follow suit. Although the capability for organization may not hitherto have proved to be one of the specialties of the Admiralty, it does not follow that, if put to the test in time of peace, at least a good and efficient programme might not be submitted to the country. It is true that the navy has no special Intelligence Department at Whitehall to assist the naval authorities, but it has a department which would serve equally well, and that is the Hydrographic. In drawing out any scheme for naval home defence, the Hydrographer and his able staff must of necessity be especially consulted. When, however, we speak of naval mobilization, it is not with the purpose of confining it to a system of home defence. It must be extended to our possessions all over the world. No inconsiderable portion of our naval strength, in the event of war, would be frittered away for want of organization—for war, when it comes, let it be from whatever quarter it may, will not give much warning of its advent. Are the Admiralty, then, prepared with a well-digested scheme of organization for getting the utmost powers of offence and defence out of our fleet throughout the world? Able and distinguished naval officers have for years past been pressing this question upon various Admiralties, and have suggested practical means by which the muscle and sinew of the fishermen and boatmen around our coasts might be—in fact, should be—utilized. The Admiralty may rely upon it that no foreign European power is without as much, if not more, information, respecting the approaches to the various ports around the coasts of the United Kingdom as is their own department: as are they also of our means for defending them. The German Admiralty have every mile of our coasts laid down on a scale larger than any our own Hydrographic Department can show, and doubtless more plans than one of making a descent upon them are laid down with equal precision. It may not be that any invasion is probable, but it would be worse than foolhardy to deem it impossible. Being therefore possible, however remote such possibility may be, it is the duty of those entrusted with the naval, that is, the chief defence of the country, to be ready to meet an enemy at all points by such a pre-arranged disposal, or, in other words, organization of our naval matériel and personnel, that assured defeat must attend any such attempt. It is much to be feared that in respect of such organization, the Admiralty would be found wanting, and the country would be in the position of a ship in which drill at general quarters was altogether unknown, being suddenly called upon to do and herself against a superior or even an equal force. All would be perplexity, disorder, and tumult, and the waste of strength would be enormous.—*United Service Gazette.*

The following intelligence has been sent to the Spanish Minister at London: "The Carlist war is at an end. Carlos has asked France for hospitality. He informed the General commanding Bayonne that he would enter France at nine o'clock this morning, by the bridge at Arrequi. Three thousand Carlists have entered France at St. Jean Pied de Port. They are crossing the frontier at Aldudes. The French will immediately intern them. King Alfonso has retired at Pampeluna."

It is said that the Marine and Fisheries Department have determined to close the Navigation School at Quebec, the Government having withdrawn the usual subsidy to the institution.

The Island of Ceylon possesses a remarkable antique known as the "Lion of Pollanaruwa," which has just been removed from the jungle where it has lain for centuries to the new museum at Colombo. It is a huge lion finely sculptured in white stone, and is said to have been used as a judgment seat by the Lingaleso king, Nissal Mala, who reigned at Pollanaruwa in the twelfth century. The arrival of the lion has caused some excitement in Colombo.

The favorite English pastime of parlor skating, now so much the rage in London, is to be introduced into New York under conditions which promise to insure its success. Several members of the Union Club, among others Mr J G Bennett, Mr. McDouglass, Mr. A. Wright Sanford, and Mr. Howland, have engaged Lyric Hall, on Sixth avenue, near Forty-first street and are organizing a parlor skating rink on the London plan. A large number of fashionable folks are joining the rink, which will be open only to members and their friends. Reunions will be held during the Lenten season, when society eschews balls, parties, and receptions and needs some new and innocent excitement. A large number of roller skates have been ordered for the members of the rink, and Lyric Hall will be renovated for its new use without delay.

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