



T H E

Canadian Courier

THE NATIONAL WEEKLY



VOL. 7

Toronto, January 8th, 1910

No. 6

REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

OPPONENTS of the Canadian navy idea assert that Great Britain is in danger of being defeated by Germany "now" or "soon." From this they argue that to be an effective aid to Great Britain, we should construct a Dreadnought in Great Britain at once, or contribute enough cash to enable Great Britain to construct one at once. They never tell us exactly why they think Germany will fight soon nor why they think that if a fight occurred Great Britain stands the slightest danger of being defeated. Hon. R. P. Roblin recently made a long speech on the subject in Winnipeg and the best he could do in the way of quoting an authority was to cite the opinion of Ex-Senator Chauncey M. Depew. This was a joke. What the Hon. Chauncey knows about warships and European conditions would hardly fill as much space as one of the chestnuts he cracks in an after-dinner speech.

Now is there any authority whose word we can take, any impartial observer with expert knowledge?

HOW would the Naval Department of the United States do? They issue an annual report on the standing of the navies of the world. If they think Germany is beating Great Britain in naval progress, that would justify the opponents of the "tin-pot" Canadian navy and support a movement for a quick contribution. Their report for 1909 is just out and it should be examined.

In that report, they group Dreadnoughts and cruisers of the Invincible type, because both are armed with big guns, mostly eleven-inch or over. Of these Great Britain has seven completed and nine under construction. Total, 16. Germany has two completed and nine under construction. Total 11. How long will it be before Germany can beat Great Britain in that particular? Won't it be sufficiently distant to enable us to build a few warships and train a few thousand men?

Of battleships of the first-class, other than Dreadnoughts, Great Britain has forty-nine and Germany twenty-four. How long will it take Germany to catch up with Great Britain in that particular. Won't it be long enough for us to build several first-class cruisers in Canadian shipbuilding yards?

Of armoured cruisers, other than the Invincible type, Great Britain possesses thirty-five and Germany nine, and the British vessels average more tonnage than the German. How long will it take Germany to catch up with poor, decrepit Great Britain in that particular? Can she do it in ten years? Can she do it in fifteen?

Of torpedo-boat destroyers, Great Britain has 148 and Germany 79. Can you see Germany gaining on Great Britain in that particular? Can she catch up before the little Canadian fleet is build and organised, and Canada given a real place in this naval game?

The truth is that in either present tonnage of war vessels or projected tonnage, Great Britain has nearly three times the strength Germany has, presuming, of course, that the United States naval department knows what it is talking about, as well as a discredited Ex-Senator of Congress.

THOSE who examine the facts will be surprised to know that Germany's present fleet does not equal that of the United States. Uncle Sam could go up against the Kaiser at the present moment, with a fair chance of success. And even Uncle Sam admits that Great Britain's fleet is unmeasureably superior to his.

The real truth of the matter, as pointed out by the Scientific American, is that Germany had to get into a feverish haste over warship-building or the United States would have had a fleet unmeasureably superior to Germany's. That journal says: "As late as a year ago, when Germany had no Dreadnoughts afloat, she actually possessed only fourteen battleships capable of fighting effectively at modern ranges, as against twenty-five flying the United States flag, and forty-nine under that of Great Britain."

Think of that, ye self-appointed protectors of crest-fallen Great Britain! Think of that, ye followers of Chauncey Depew! Think of that, ye blind-folded politicians who would rush Canada into an ill-considered naval policy!

A year ago, the German fleet was about one-half the strength of the United States fleet in long-range work, and only one-quarter the strength of the British fleet. Germany had reasons for her haste. The fight in the Sea of Japan proved to Germany that her fleet was badly constructed and feebly armed. Her ships were too light for modern guns. Her 9.4 guns, which were her main armament, were practically useless in the first line of fire. One year ago, Germany was down and out as far as fleet efficiency was concerned.

THE following table which will be found in the recent report is commended to the kindly and serious consideration of those who would have us believe that if we don't send a few millions over to London in the next few weeks, that Britannia will cease to rule the waves forthwith.

Relative Order of Warship Tonnage.

Name	At Present Tonnage	With all Completed Tonnage.
Great Britain	1,758,350	2,005,873
United States	682,785	785,687
Germany	609,700	820,692
France	602,920	766,909
Japan	396,368	489,704
Russia	259,263	412,250
Italy	216,038	257,818
Austria	114,897	167,297

IN confirmation of this view, many British utterances might be quoted. Just one week ago to-day, the Chancellor of the Exchequer speaking at Reading, paid his respects to the scare-makers "who mistook the rattling of the milkman's cans in the mornings for the jingle of spurs of German Hussars." On the sea, he declared, Great Britain has three times as many men and three times as much material as Germany. Did these scare-makers think a German would eat three Britishers as if they were three frankfort sausages?

The people who imagine that the Germans are roaring lions going about seeking whom they may devour have a difficult task on hand when they attempted to prove their case by authentic evidences. A certain labour representative has been making quite a fuss in England about German aggression, but the Rt. Hon. John Burns tells us not to worry as the man's views are warped. Otherwise, no prominent voice in Great Britain argues that the danger from Germany is immediate, and few admit that it is even remote.

"WHY all this recent fuss in Great Britain, then?" someone will ask. The question cannot be satisfactorily answered, except to say that it was mainly political. Times were bad, and the builders of naval vessels were afraid the building of ships would be seriously lessened. They and other interested people got up a scare. The contest between Lord Beresford and Admiral Fisher further added fuel to the flames.

The best proof of this is that the fuss is nearly over. Very little is heard about it. The House of Lords has supplied a new topic for people who must talk. Canada's manifest duty is to keep cool. We have seen flags waved before and it should not be allowed to drive us into a frenzy on this particular occasion.

EVERY now and again some one gets up in the Maritime Province to make the remark that the people of Toronto, Montreal and the surrounding country think that the Maritime Provinces are not a