

Whatever else may be said, no person can deny that the proposed navy will be a cheap and tawdry ornament. It will be more expensive than Canada's present militia force, and that has always been considered quite costly.

**N**OW it appears that Mr. Redmond is no greater than Parnell and that he will support Mr. Asquith only on the condition that he bring in a Home Rule Bill. For a time it looked as if Mr. Redmond would be statesman enough to put Home Rule after the budget and the abolition of the Lords' veto. Many people saw in this supposed attitude, a quality of mind which indicated real leadership. These people are apparently doomed to bitter disappointment. The Irish Party are open to make a deal, and the men or party who is known to have no higher standard of public service than that is tolerably certain of being ignored. If the latest despatches correctly state the attitude of the Irish Party, then Home Rule is a long distance away. Mr. Asquith will refuse to make such a bargain, so will Mr. Balfour. Then there is nothing for the Irish Party to do but refrain from voting on the budget or to vote against it. If they refrain they write themselves down as selfish and inconsiderate politicians. If they vote against it, they will precipitate another general election which will take away from them the balance of power which they now possess. This at least is the Courier's guess.

**C**URLING is the winter sport of men, as hockey is of youths. There is this difference, however, that while all Canadian hockey is tintured with professionalism and most of it blackened by unsportsmanlike conduct, curling is a gentleman's game. Every player pays his own expenses, and all the larger prizes become club property.

Curling is peculiarly local. The curlers of one province know little of the curlers of the other. Down east, the men in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia meet annually in inter-provincial contests, but this is exceptional. Strangely, too, for the purposes of curling, Ottawa is in the Province of Quebec, while Kingston and Brockville have conflicting emotions. Out west while there are no inter-provincial matches, there is a succession of bonspiels where men from the three prairie provinces are accustomed to meet.

The greatest annual event in Canadian curling is the Winnipeg Bonspiel. It is the king event in the curling annals of North America. It is provincial, inter-provincial, and international. No skip, with local fame in the roarin' game, has achieved permanent reputation until he has taken a rink to Winnipeg in February. The results are read with keen interest by every real curler in Canada, and also by many in the leading cities of the United States. This year there were approximately 800 contestants, including a dozen from Ontario and a score from the United States. The Manitoba Curling Association is to be congratulated upon the magnificent success which has attended its twenty-first annual bonspiel.

**S**TRANGELY enough, the suffragist agitation in Great Britain seems to have had greater influence in Canada than in the country of origin. Every provincial legislature, and this is the month in which most of them are busiest, is face to face with some suffragist enthusiast. In none, however, is the agitation likely to have real results. Perhaps the women and their admirers expect only an educational campaign.

Mrs. Fessenden of Hamilton, well known in connection with her work in the establishment of Empire Day, has a sensible letter in the *Toronto Globe*. She expresses her belief that the municipal vote will be sufficient to tax the spare energies of most women. Indeed, the very small vote polled by women in the municipal elections proves conclusively that there is no real anxiety on the part of Canadian women to play a larger part in public affairs. There is everywhere a feeling that women should be better informed on social questions, and this may ultimately lead to an enlarged franchise.

Mrs. Fessenden objects to a general women's suffrage because women are in the majority, and would thus assume too much responsibility. She wants the laws made by those who have the physical power to enforce them. As for the claim that women would purify politics, she argues that history does not support it. In Utah, women are keener on polygamy than the men. Moreover, women being sentimental are likely to do wrong as rashly as men do under election excitement. This is the experience of the United States and New Zealand. Mrs. Fessenden is to be congratulated upon her sensible

and well-reasoned presentation of the arguments against the extreme suffragist. Women must always have some influence in politics and political life, but that influence is perhaps more potent when indirect.

**A**CCORDING to the *New York Times*, Mr. B. E. Fernow, German by birth, United States by adoption, and Canadian by present domicile, is the man who started the policy of conservation on this continent. It was he who made Gifford Pinchot and Mr. Roosevelt enthusiasts. He founded the American Forestry Association in 1884 and was instrumental in having created a department of forestry at Washington. While head of that "division" of the Department at Washington, he interested Mr. Gifford Pinchot, a young Yale graduate, and he went to Germany to study. Fernow got him into the Forestry Commission, and he finally succeeded Fernow in the "division." In 1898, Dr. Fernow went from Washington to Cornell, and nine years later he came to the University of Toronto.

In short, Fernow made Pinchot, Pinchot made Roosevelt, and Roosevelt made the conservation of national resources a live topic all over the North American continent. Canada owes much, and will profit much, by the work of these three enthusiasts.

#### WARSHIPS AND SHIPBUILDING

**M**ANY persons have believed that the Canadian naval policy would be a step forward in laying a foundation for a steel shipbuilding industry for the Maritime Provinces. The *Halifax Herald* disagrees. In its issue of the 10th inst., it speaks editorially thus:

"But about the only thing, or best thing, that can be said in favour of the Laurier programme, is that, if the proposed vessels are to be built in Canada, it will afford the Dominion Government an opportunity or excuse for assisting steel shipbuilding in this country.

"But the Government needs no such round-about and expensive excuse for affording public assistance to steel shipbuilding in Canada.

"That is something that the Government should have done long ago, and something that could be done openly, and avowedly, and that would enlist popular approval.

"But what sane man or Government would propose that, in making a beginning of steel shipbuilding in Canada, the very first work should be the construction of a warship?

"The mere asking of this question should be enough to bring down general condemnation on the Laurier programme.

"It is true that steel shipbuilding should be promoted in Canada, and that the Dominion Government should assist in such promotion; but it should be done as a worthy and proper project in itself and quite apart from the building of warships, which would certainly be the most unsuitable of work for an infant enterprise to undertake."

#### Protection Still in Difficulty.

Editor, Canadian Courier:

Sir,—In your reference in this week's Courier to Great Britain's customs collections, you are hardly fair, I think, in your comparison with Canadian customs. Many, probably most, of the duties imposed by Canada are not entirely placed on imported articles for "revenue" purposes alone, but for "protective" purposes. This does not apply in a single instance with respect to customs collection in Great Britain.

You have certainly read the lesson of the "German scare" very truly, but am afraid you, together with many other loyal Canadians, have misread the signs of the times respecting Great Britain's drifting toward higher duties; until you and other Britishers (who ought to be better informed, being on the spot) convince the great English manufacturing centres of the beauties of protection, this policy has a hard row to hoe yet. The North, the hard-headed business North, is more Free Trade than ever, as even the Northcliffe-ridden *Times* has to admit. Unless this great and busy portion of England can be converted, protection will hardly come to Great Britain.

I would also point out that Wales and Scotland are still undivided on this question. Like the North of England, they are firm for Free Trade.

Trust the present English Government to raise enough money for pensions and Dreadnoughts and many other social purposes without reverting to Protection again.

Yours truly,  
Montreal, February 12th, 1910. SUBSCRIBER.

#### A Fraud Upon the Empire. (*Mail and Empire, Toronto.*)

The Imperial authorities asked us to help them on the ocean in the hour of need.

Our Government responds with a scheme to build a flotilla of small ships that will be useless for defence purposes.

Is that the way to answer the call of the Empire?

For this nonsense we are to pay \$16,000,000 down and \$7,000,000 a year forever.

Is this common sense?

Why not set aside this expensive and unnecessary project and do something that is real for the Empire to which we belong?

Two Dreadnoughts for the Royal Navy would be a gift worthy of the great Dominion.