

Twice-a-Week Times

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NAVAL SUPREMACY.

The alleged German menace is now doing duty for political purposes on both sides of the great waters which divide the British Empire on two hemispheres. Or rather an attempt is being made to equip this mythical menace for duty in Canada and in Great Britain.

The last element it would be comforting to think upon tenable ground; but it is to be feared the millennium has not yet dawned even upon this peacefully inclined portion of the earth.

These obligations, when assumed, will supply the answer to the arguments of the second class of objectors, that Canadians are an inferior people, incapable of building and operating naval vessels.

Experience has already demonstrated that direct contributions to the British navy will not meet the requirements of the situation even if it promised a permanent solution of the defence problem.

It is strange the variety of cases to which this "German menace" can be made to apply. The Tories in Great Britain are working it overtime just now, but they need it. It will hardly save them from the doom the noble lords have prepared for them.

The statement for the present year, says the Scientific American, which shows the relative standing of the navies on November 1st, possesses special interest because it gives an authoritative statement as to the present strength of the navies in ships of the "Dreadnought" type—a subject regarding which the public has been treated during the past few months to overmuch literature of a sensational and misleading character.

Of battleships of the "Dreadnought" type, Great Britain has afloat and completed four, Germany two, and the United States two. France, Japan, Russia, Italy, and Austria have not as yet completed a ship of the "Dreadnought" type.

Of armored cruisers of the "Invincible" type, Great Britain possesses three, and has two under construction; Germany has none completed, and three under construction; and Japan has one completed and one building.

Adding together the totals for ships armed entirely with big guns, both "Dreadnoughts" and "Invincibles," we find that Great Britain has seven completed of 126,450 tons displacement, and nine under construction of 181,000 tons; Germany has two completed of 36,000 tons, and nine under construction of 183,000 tons; the United States has two completed of 32,000 tons, and four under construction of 83,460 tons; Japan has built one of 14,600 tons and is building three of 52,200 tons total displacement; Russia has none completed and is building four of 22,000 tons total displacement; Italy has none completed, and one of 18,600 tons under construction; France and Austria have nothing either afloat or on the stocks of the all-big-gun type.

Of battleships of the first class, other than "Dreadnoughts" (in which enumeration the navy department includes all battleships of about 10,000 tons displacement or over that are less than twenty years old, unless they have been reconstructed and re-armed since 1909) Great Britain possesses forty-nine of 74,730 tons displacement; Germany, twenty-four of 23,424 tons; the United States, twenty-five of 23,146 tons; France, seventeen of 21,270 tons; Japan, twelve of 17,898 tons; Russia, five of 16,000 tons; Italy, ten of 12,600 tons; and Austria, three of 8,100 tons.

Of armored cruisers other than the "Invincible" type, Great Britain possesses thirty-five of 416,500 tons displacement; Germany, nine of 68,693 tons; the United States, twelve of 157,445 tons; France, twenty-one of 192,882 tons; Japan, eleven of 180,900 tons; Russia, seven of 70,200 tons; Italy, eight of 59,000 tons; and Austria, three of 18,800 tons.

In the class of torpedo-boat destroyers, Great Britain leads with 148, followed by Russia with 97, Germany with 78, Japan with 56, France with 56, the United States with 47, Italy with 47, and Austria with 6. Great Britain has 20 torpedo boat destroyers under construction, the United States 19, Germany 15, France 16, Japan 3, and Austria 6.

The following table gives the relative order of warship tonnage both at present and when all the ships now under construction are completed. It will be noted that the only change in relative standing in the second list is that Germany will take the second position at present held by the United States.

Table with 3 columns: Nation, At Present, Completed. Rows include Great Britain, United States, Germany, France, Japan, Russia, Italy, Austria.

It is here that the careful observer of naval development must look for an explanation of the feverish haste with which Germany is building a fleet of "Dreadnoughts." The short-sighted policy which led to the mounting of the 9.4-inch gun as the principal arm in her first two squadrons of battleships, left her navy in a very serious condition when, the absolute superiority of the 12-inch gun was demonstrated in the battle of the Sea of Japan.

THE LORDS' GRIEVOUS ERROR.

Why should the forces of political reaction in Great Britain be disturbed in mind because in the face of real constitutional crisis, when a pernicious precedent is sought to be established, the various wings and divisions of the armies of progress should unite and act in concert for the purpose of achieving a common end? The vital principle of whether an elective or a hereditary body shall control the finances of the nation is at stake. That is a matter of fundamental importance which may affect deeply the future of the great body of the people.

That is the position of the Liberal forces in Great Britain to-day. They have been battered and hammered and hampered by the opposition for four years, and in some instances have shown evidence of disintegration from within, but the lords by their actions leaving proved their determination to stem the tide of social and political progress by killing all measures deemed to be of fundamental importance, have aroused the true spirit of Liberalism in the hearts and the understanding of the British people and united the great body of the electors in a stern determination to uphold the threatened

rights of the Commons. Could any other else have been looked for under such conditions? When the liberties of the people are menaced, the natural thing is for all who value liberty and independence to unite against the menacing foe.

There is a rather surprising thing to note in connection with the present struggle in the old isles whose people have led the whole world towards the great white light of political liberty and freedom. That is that the Tory forces on the eve of battle are cleft asunder by several schisms. The leader of the party, Mr. Balfour, is not a convinced tariff reformer. In that respect he probably represents the inward conviction of a majority of Conservatives.

Then a considerable number of Tory peers are convinced, and have publicly recorded their views, that the Lords made a serious mistake in rejecting the budget and placing in the hands of the government such an effective weapon with which to beat a resounding tattoo on coroneted heads. The Liberal leaders are not hesitating to make the most out of the situation. No reverence for hereditary privileges taints the tongues of men like Premier Asquith, Chancellor Lloyd George, Burns, Churchill or Haldane.

Probably public opinion in this country may be that the Established Church of England is one factor which can be counted as a unit in support of the position of the lords. Such is not the case, if one may be considered safe in founding an opinion on the expressions of the leading Church paper of the United Kingdom. There is no question as to the weight of authority exercised in Anglican circles by the Church Times. It has a wide circulation and as wide an influence. The speeches of the Archbishop of York and of the Bishop of Hereford have already been quoted. They were considered of sufficient importance to telegraph across the ocean. We shall give a portion of the observations of the Church Times on the action of the Lords, which the organ treats convincingly from a constitutional point of view.

"The House of Lords, theoretically considered, is a rather absurd institution. No inventor of Constitutions would dream of anything so fantastic; it is an odd survival from a state of things long past and it does not represent what was logically coherent in its original formation. It is not an assembly of magnates, but a fortuitous collection of individuals. The majority of its members are obscure persons without weight or authority. The methods by which it is recruited are often suspicious, and sometimes scandalous. It should be overwhelmed with ridicule. But nothing of the kind happens. On the contrary, this theoretically absurd institution has real power, real influence and authority in the country; a power, influence, and authority which we see steadily increasing. Among all the anomalies of English politics this seems to be the most conspicuous.

"The weight and influence of the House have been sufficiently evident at all times. Not least are they proved by the futile attempts of the Liberal party, as long ago as the year 1884 Mr. Gladstone sounded the trumpet for an attack. Nothing came of it. Three years ago the House of Commons, on the motion of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, adopted a resolution involving a specific threat. Nothing further has been heard of it. The House of Lords has 'taken charge' of government bills—it is Lord Crew's pathetic complaint—and has modified them out of recognition; some have been lost in consequence, some have been passed in a chastened spirit of compromise, others, again, have been summarily rejected. And now, to crown all, the House of Lords has refused to pass the Finance bill of the year—has, in effect, 'refused Supply.' The House of Commons might well resolve, in historic words, 'that the power of the House of Lords has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished.'

NATIONAL PROGRESS.

The small increase in the public debt of Canada notwithstanding the important public works which have been undertaken, principally for the purpose of increasing transportation facilities and preparing the way for the great armies of settlers now pouring into the country, is a matter of astonishment to almost all critics in the world except Hon. George E. Foster.

As Mr. Fielding pointed out in his financial statement, the national debt, from a per capita point of view, is steadily decreasing. It is not necessary to tell Canadians that they are a very much wealthier people than they were thirteen years ago. They know that from their individual experience. But if it were necessary to convince them by statistics, as Mr. Foster used to attempt to do when he was custodian of the finances, an examination of the statements of the postoffice savings bank and of the statements of the chartered banks of the country would supply the most convincing evidence.

The growth of the trade of the Dominion, also, is another of the wonders of the times. The case of the United States when at a similar stage in her career as a nation did not supply an effective parallel to it. Indeed the case of the United States at the present time, notwithstanding the marvellous wealth of that nation and its equally marvellous annual growth,

RAILWAY SERVICE SOUTH OF FRASER

Conference Between Royal City Board of Trade and G. N. Officials.

New Westminster, Dec. 23.—Another conference was held between the officers of the New Westminster board of trade and the Great Northern railway officials with respect to a better train service on the Great Northern south of the Fraser river and as a result it is expected that a greatly improved service will be instituted in the near future.

This conference was held for the purpose of considering an alternative scheme proposed by the Great Northern Railway Company by which a tri-weekly service would be installed on the line between Cloverdale and Huntingdon instead of a daily service as suggested. This plan was strenuously opposed by the representatives of the Westminster and Surrey boards of trade and eventually a scheme was drafted which will be submitted to the officials of the company at Seattle for their approval.

This scheme provides for a daily train service to New Westminster from Port Gulch on the west and Huntingdon on the east, arriving at New Westminster about 9 a. m. and returning to leave here either at 3.30 or at 5 o'clock. If at the former time the train will be a freight with a passenger coach attached or at the latter a straight passenger train. It is suggested that there should be a tri-weekly service from Hazelton on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, on market day having a box car attached to the train for carrying small market produce. In consequence of the recent heavy rains it will be two or three weeks before the proposed service will be put into effect, but once it is approved by the officials of the company it will be pushed forward without delay.

The Great Northern railway now has a daily schedule between Port Gulch and New Westminster. It is supposed to arrive at New Westminster about 10 o'clock and leave here about 3.30. There is no service between Huntingdon and Cloverdale, while there is only a train on Sunday from Cloverdale to Hazelton.

CEDAR HILL SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT Entertainment for Pupils Next Week—Closing Exercises.

Gordon Head, Dec. 21.—On Friday evening, the 17th inst., the annual Christmas concert in connection with the Cedar Hill school was held in the Cedar Hill Temperance hall. A large crowd was present and the first part of the programme, which was given by the pupils, was greatly appreciated by all. After the programme it was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Rev. H. A. Collison, that a vote of thanks be tendered to the teachers of the school for their care of the children. C. E. King proved himself an able chairman and the following programme was rendered: Chorus, "Fire Brigade," by the school; recitation, Leslie Deacon; Xmas drill by eight girls; Mother Goose pantomime, twenty boys and girls; chorus, "Merry Christmas," by the school; song, "Good Night," five little girls; dialogue, "Wanted a Servant," girls in Division I.; song, with banjo accompaniment, W. E. Hammond; recitation, Miss Meacock; song, Miss Marion O'Hara; song, Rev. H. A. Collison; recitation, Sidney Williams; duet, Misses Osterhaus. The proceeds from the concert will be devoted to an Xmas tree for the pupils, to be held on the Wednesday after Christmas.

The North Dalry and Gordon Head schools also held their closing exercises on Friday. At the former the pupils presented their teacher, Mr. Thomas, with a fountain pen. At the latter a good programme was prepared, which was greatly enjoyed by the large number present.

The contract for carrying the mail from Gordon Head to Victoria has been awarded to Mr. Williamson, who will commence his duties on January 1st, 1910.

Mr. Henry Lewis, who has been visiting friends in Dr. Hinkwater, Sask., has returned to his home at Mount Tolmie.

H. E. Marchant has purchased the residence formerly owned by P. Gosling at Mount Tolmie.

Mr. H. Lester and family, from Newfoundland are visiting Mrs. Bradshaw and intend spending the winter in the district.

Mr. Macaulay, who recently purchased G. Watson's residence in Gordon Head, has arrived with his family from Moosejaw and is residing in his new home.

ELIAS CASTLEY DIED FROM INJURIES

Respected Resident of Duncan Passed Away at Hospital on Christmas Day.

(From Monday's Daily.) As the result of an accident which befell him last week, Elias Castley, of Duncan, passed away at St. Joseph's hospital on Christmas morning. He was employed by the B. C. Telephone Company for several years as a lineman, making his home at Duncan.

While at work on the telephone line near Duncan a few days ago a defective rope caused a pole to fall, which badly crushed him. He was immediately brought to Victoria on the train and an operation performed. It was, however, impossible to save his life, he having succumbed to his injuries.

Deceased was born in Westmoreland, England, and was in his 88th year. He was well known both in this city and in Duncan, and his loss will be severely felt by his numerous friends. The late Mr. Castley was a valued member of the I.O.O.F. at Duncan, where he was secretary of the lodge. The remains were forwarded yesterday morning by the C. P. Railway to the funeral home of the late Mr. C. Furness, who will be in charge of the funeral. The pallbearers were as follows: P. A. McLean, J. Wilby, F. Davey, A. Henderson, W. J. Wriglesworth and J. Dillabough.

PIONEER CITIZEN DIES VERY SUDDENLY

John Emery, Well Known Tobaccoist, A Victim of Heart Disease.

The death occurred very suddenly Thursday afternoon of John Emery, the well-known cigar and tobacco dealer, of Government street. Deceased had been enjoying his customary health and was about town most of the day. In the afternoon, while paying a business visit to the office of P. R. Brown & Co. on Broad street, he was seized with a sudden illness and had to be sent to his home, where he passed away an hour and a half later. Heart disease is said to have been the cause of his death.

Deceased was widely known and highly respected. He had lived in Victoria for nearly twenty years. He was a native of North Hatley, Quebec, and was 67 years of age. A widow, three sons and four daughters survive him. Much sympathy is expressed for the bereaved family. The circumstances are rendered additionally sad, owing to the fact that only a few weeks ago a son died father suddenly.

DIES SUDDENLY

United States Senator McLaurin, of Mississippi, Expires in His Library.

Jackson, Miss., Dec. 24.—United States Senator A. J. McLaurin died suddenly Wednesday night of heart disease at his home in Brandon, Miss. The fatal attack seized Senator McLaurin while he was seated in a rocking chair in front of the fireplace in his library. He fell forward without speaking a word and was dead when members of his family reached him. The sudden death followed within a few moments of a remark by Senator McLaurin that he was feeling better than he had felt at any time since his illness, resulting from ptomaine poisoning.

The appointment of his successor may be made immediately by Governor Noel.

King Alfonso of Spain has a unique museum consisting of a collection of articles by which his life has been endangered. Amongst them is to be found the skin of a horse which was killed by a bomb flung at his Majesty.

Winipeg, Dec. 27.—An entire block of stores and business offices at Altona, in the southern part of Manitoba, near the boundary line, in the centre of the Mennonite reserve, was destroyed by fire this morning.



Full Dress Suits For New Year's

There will be Receptions and At Homes—Euchre and Bridge Parties—Dances and Balls. And Full Dress is imperative. Choose your evening garments from the splendid styles and patterns shown by Fit-Reform. The Richest fabrics, handsomest effects, irreproachable cut and perfect fit guaranteed.

Full Dress Suits \$25 to \$40 Tuxedo Coats \$18 to \$22

White Silk and Pique Vests for Full Dress Suits. Gray Silk Vests to complete the Tuxedo Suit.

ALLEN & CO. FIT-REFORM 1201 GOVERNMENT ST.

RESCUES FIVE FROM BURNING BUILDING BY MAIL TRAIN

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 27.—A special train from Odeesa, Wash., says: "The eastbound Great Northern mail train struck the buggy of John Schinke on Sunday, seriously injuring John Rougust and Ruth and Talbert Schinke, aged 3 and 6 respectively, the latter two children of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel E. Schinke, of Odeesa. The accident occurred at a crossing just east of the station, where warehouses obstruct the view of the track for several blocks. The horse made a dash and got out of the way, but the buggy was broken into splinters and the occupants thrown upon the engine, where they remained until the train was stopped and brought back to the depot. The little girl has not regained consciousness, and but little hope is had for her recovery. The driver was badly hurt, his skull being fractured and practically split open on the right side.

At the rear of the house two unknown women were frantically appealing for help from an open window and were about to leap to the street below when Bowland appeared with his ladder. He warned them to stay where they were and was soon going to their rescue. He carried one of the half-fainting women to the sidewalk in safety, and was within 12 feet of the bottom with the other when the ladder broke and Bowland and his burden were precipitated to the pavement. They landed on a bundle of clothes that had been thrown from the window by the woman and were unhurt.

The explosion of a gas stove in the kitchen was the cause of the fire which only partially destroyed the buildings.

PROBABLY MURDERED. Loveland, Tenn., Dec. 27.—Mystery surrounds the death of Lemuel Sunny-calf, eight years of age, and his brother Russell, a year younger, whose bodies were found in the ruins of the Sunny-calf home which was destroyed by fire early to-day. Each boy's skull was crushed. Their charred bodies were found near the spot where their bed had stood. The coroner is investigating the case.

BLOCK BURNS. Winipeg, Dec. 27.—An entire block of stores and business offices at Altona, in the southern part of Manitoba, near the boundary line, in the centre of the Mennonite reserve, was destroyed by fire this morning.

MERRY PAS AFTER BU ALL Y. M. C. A. Looked A

After a hot knowledge in the history men of Victoria met on Christmas day in the city so it was observed. A week of shopping enabled every man all testifier trade and work which it was perished in. The optimistic throughout making the happiness. It will be entered the fullest as Christmas. Light covering those citizens eastern province was seasonal however, dis after day by pleasant day with Pacific. In addition erings in the locally for the home and de which is re all at this

At the Rox St. Joseph's nurses were the season's worst were almost done.

The dinner at the Y. M. C. A. was a successful affair. The season's worst were almost done. The dinner at the Y. M. C. A. was a successful affair. The season's worst were almost done. The dinner at the Y. M. C. A. was a successful affair. The season's worst were almost done.

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