

Genius of Lord Fisher

Prepared British Navy

To Win the Great War

LORD FISHER says that Nelson was the greatest man who ever lived; Harold Begbie informs readers of the London Chronicle that Lord Fisher is a greater man than Nelson, and perhaps it may occur to someone that the author of the slogan, "Business as Usual," has a slight edge on Lord Fisher, thus reducing Lord Nelson to his proper place. It is not necessary to take Begbie's view about Lord Fisher to appreciate the fact that he played a great part in this war, one that the public is inclined to forget just because Lord Fisher happened to be out of office when the final victory was won. He resigned as First Sea Lord after a quarrel with Winston Churchill, the merits of which have not been disclosed; but it is not what Fisher did when at the Admiralty that entitles him to the undying gratitude of his fellow-countrymen. Once the fighting begins the success of the navy depends upon the captains and the commander of the Grand Fleet.

This is what he did: He revolutionized British methods of naval warfare; he produced the first Dreadnought; he trained the navy for fighting in the North Sea. If ever there was a British sailor steeped in the Nelson tradition it was Fisher. His remark that Nelson was the greatest man who ever lived suggests this. No one ever studied Nelson's strategy like Fisher, unless it was Mahan, and despite the fact that one of the smallest ships in the modern British fleet could easily



LORD FISHER.

destroy any fleet that Nelson ever commanded, Fisher found that the great principles of naval warfare were better understood by Nelson than by any other man before or since. It would be too much to say, perhaps, that Fisher got his ideas of the Dreadnought from Nelson, but he did get his idea of training the British navy in the North Sea from Nelson. "Your battle ground should be your drilling ground," was a saying of Nelson's that struck home to Fisher, and when he was chief of the British navy some years ago he began to put the precept into practice.

He called home on one excuse or another and at different times every British man-of-war that was cruising in the Mediterranean or other waters, and put it patrolling in the North Sea. He wanted the fleet to drill on what he knew would be the battle-ground of the future. He said: "I wanted it to nose about in the fogs, smelling different patches of pea-soupiness, sniffing and peering until it could say, 'Hello, not his idea of the Dogger bank' and feel it had met a friend." He added: "What hope would the fleet have had of victory called from the bright sunshine and the blue air of the Mediterranean to fight a battle in the fogs of the North Sea? There they were with white-topped caps and linen trousers, with beautiful polished decks and shining brass work, living in a yachtsman's paradise, and God was saying every hour as loud as Sinai's thunders that Armageddon would be fought in the pea-soup of the North Sea." In Fisher's ears must have sounded those "ancestral voices prophesying war," for in 1908 he put into writing his firm conviction that Germany and Great Britain would be at war in 1914—when the Kiel Canal improvements were complete.

So this is one of the things that Fisher did, which helped the British navy to win the war. He told Begbie that in those days when he was trying to put his theories into effect he had only one friend, King Edward. The King told him to stick to it, that he was on the right track, and there can be no doubt that the King's influence, which was so largely responsible for the Entente with France, made it possible for British warships to be withdrawn from the Mediterranean and stationed in the cold mists of the North Sea.

Von.

Von, in the German, is a part of the family name, like the Mac in MacDonald or the O in O'Brien. Von is German for "of," and was originally used to differentiate a person of some particular locality from all other persons. From being a mark of distinction or badge of honor it gradually became part of the family name.

Spitzbergen Lost to Germany

A LAND where highway robbery and other high crimes and misdemeanors are perfectly legal, or at least are not unlawful, will be one of the problems that will arise to perplex the Peace Conference which will hand down a decision on the last unpleasantness. This land is Spitzbergen, and acts that are punishable by death or imprisonment elsewhere in the world are not unlawful there because there is no law. For Spitzbergen is in the truest sense of the word a "No Man's Land."

This curiosity among the nations of the earth is not some tiny inlet in an isolated corner of the remote oceans, but an island, or group of islands, of vast extent, embracing 50,000 square miles. Spitzbergen is 400 miles north of Norway, and is about as desolate a place as can be found on the earth's surface. In the few sunny days of midsummer a little grass appears in sheltered nooks, but for the greater part of the year the Arctic winter reigns supreme.

Germany, before she went out of the business of apportioning the world to suit herself, sought to steal a march on the rest of the nations by inserting a clause in the now defunct Brest-Litovsk treaty dividing the control of Spitzbergen between Germany and Russia—in other words, giving it to Germany. When this clause came to light there was great indignation in England over this act of German presumption. For, until the signing of the Brest-Litovsk treaty, neither Germany nor Russia had ever put forth any claim to Spitzbergen. Neither had Great Britain, for that matter, nor any other nation. Over Spitzbergen's bleak wastes no flag has ever flown.

The remarkable history of Spitzbergen began when the islands were discovered in 1596 by William Barents, the Dutch explorer. The islands were covered with ice and snow, and no nation considered it worth while to lay claim to such worthless territory. So, while visited occasionally by whalers, they have remained ownerless through 400 years, while the powers of the earth have been scrambling for colonies in fairer lands. But if Spitzbergen is so worthless as to remain unclaimed through all the intervening centuries since Barents visited its harbor, why should the peace conference with its manifold troubles be called upon to add this remote one to its list? The answer is that it has been found that, nestled under Spitzbergen's thick blanket of snow and ice are great deposits of coal, iron, pure gypsum, marble and oil-bearing rock.

An American company began the development of coal mines in Spitzbergen in 1900. Other countries hastened to follow suit. Then the curious fact presented itself that, Spitzbergen belonging to no nation, and being without government of any kind, there was no such thing as private right of property there. Conditions as to ownership of property in Spitzbergen were just the same as they were in Europe in the Stone Age, when every man took what he could from his weaker neighbor.

Why, it probably will be asked, did not some nation raise its flag there and proclaim its sovereignty, as is done when an uncharted island is discovered, or as Columbus claimed America in the name of Spain? Because the nations had so long acquiesced in the assumption that Spitzbergen was terra nullius that none of them had the hardihood to make claim of individual ownership. It was after Secretary Lansing made a statement to that effect that Germany had an excess of hardihood and drew up the Brest-Litovsk treaty. After Germany's action became known Britain hurried a ship to Spitzbergen and raised the British flag there. Britain announces, however, that she took this action merely to offset the claim of Germany, and that the disposition of Spitzbergen will have to be made by the Peace Conference.

But reverting to pre-war conditions, if capital was to be invested in the development of Spitzbergen, capitalists must have some assurance of protection. As matters stood, any man who was strong enough physically could take anything he pleased. He found in Spitzbergen, and there was no law in the world, except the law of greater might, that could punish him or say him nay. Something had to be done to remedy this impossible condition before Spitzbergen could be developed. So a conference was called to meet in Christiansia in 1914. Delegates from the United States and the northern nations of Europe attended. The outbreak of the war brought the conference to an abrupt end.

The conference had proceeded only far enough in its deliberations to develop the difficulties of the situation, difficulties so extraordinary that Secretary Lansing discussed them in an article written for the American Journal of International Law. Speaking of the problem of the conference, Secretary Lansing said:

"The situation is one that is entirely novel. The records of history will be searched in vain for precedents. Since a similar state of affairs has never before arisen to perplex the statesmen of the world, there is no use seeking a solution in past examples. Indeed, so unusual is the situation that comparisons and conclusions drawn from historical experiences are entirely wanting, and the problem must be solved by a consideration of the fundamental principles underlying governmental institutions. It must be determined whether the nature of sovereignty admits the possibility of the exercise of sovereign power on land without the existence of territorial sovereignty. Such a problem leads into the fields of political philosophy, into an analysis of the abstract idea of sovereignty, and into a consideration of its origin, extent and exercise."

BANFF IN CARNIVAL TIME



BANFF will again be en fete for its Third Winter Carnival, from February 7th to the 15th. Those who were fortunate enough to visit it during the Carnival last year, found Banff they had never dreamed of; how could they know of the beauty of this mountain resort in winter? Ask any resident of Banff which season he prefers, and his answer will invariably be "Winter."

It will only be a case of a very few years till tourists arrange their trips to take in the Carnival at Banff; as thousands visit New Orleans in March

for the Mardi Gras, Pasadena for the Rose Tournament, or Continental cities and towns when they are en fete. Banff, the National Resort, will soon be the centre of winter sports in Canada, as Kristiania in Norway, and Stockholm, Sweden. Why? It is a perfect winter playground, apart from the wonderful scenery, and many will want to see the "Top of the World" in winter.

The preparations for the Carnival this year are on a larger scale than previous years. The aim is to make Banff a winter as well as a summer

playground. In one aspect the visitor will find the amusement of both combined in the hot sulphur springs, which gives one the privilege of swimming out in the open with the thermometer above, or twenty below zero, in not tepid, but warm water.

The spirit of the Carnival will again have full sway throughout the town, and those who arrive at night will feel the pages of many books have at last become a part of their lives; for they are in a veritable tiny miniature fairyland. Colored lights are to be strung across the streets, down the toboggan slide, and on the rinks in thousands, giving the gala effect as desired.

The ice palace will as usual be the centre of attraction. The style is one which will be admired by all who see it. Hundreds of lights shining through the blue green of enormous blocks of ice, produce an effect that can readily be imagined to be very lovely; and most harmonious with the dark pines around, the clear blue sky and the mountains in the background.

Those only in town a few moments will suddenly be attracted by bells, shouting, singing, etc. When their eyes follow the sound, another spot of this Fairyland will be revealed. Two rows of many colored lights and flaming torches mark the route of the toboggan slide.

The list of amusements is a long one. There are the hockey and curling matches, toboggan races, snow shoe, and ski races. The ski jump, being this year promises to be one of the big events, for a new jump costing five hundred dollars is being built. Some of the best skiers in

Canada taking part in the competitions. The Pony Ski races are, of course, on the programme, and will no doubt create the usual excitement. Snow shoe tramps equally as interesting as last year have been planned where lunch will be served at Game Warden's Cabin. These tramps are conducted by men who know every inch of the country. Masquerade balls bring the items on the programme to a close.

Those who imagine the world in the mountains to be a dead one in winter, will have a pleasant surprise. Rivers, brooks, cataracts and falls are all pursuing their merry course, as in summer, except in perhaps very occasional spots. The animals are not huddled up inside their burrows seeking shelter away from the world to escape "this awful winter," but roam around as in summer (except the bears) deer, goats, Rocky Mountain sheep, and coyotes are to be seen, also winter birds of several varieties.

Banff dead in winter? No, indeed, and very soon it will be more alive than ever, for instead of hundreds there will be thousands come to see the "Top of the World" in winter. Let those who come this winter enjoy Nature in all the beauty of her winter garb—or enter into any of the competitions for the many lovely prizes the residents of Banff are giving, for the true sport and joy of amusement; and those same people will again be claimed as guests at other Carnivals.—E. C. McD.

BETTERING GRAPEFRUIT.

Experiments Tried to Improve the Quality of the Fruit.

Who has not been overcome with confusion when, breaking his fast at a strange table, the juice of the grapefruit squirted into his eyes or over his clothing as he pressed the spoon home between the seed segments?

And who, even admitting that many a good breakfast has been spoiled by such an outward incident, would expect one of the biggest agencies of the United States Government to devote its energies to producing a grapefruit that would not squirt?

As an altruistic effort, wisely directed, is never wholly lost, the result has been not only a non-squirting fruit, but one that has many other good points. It has always been recognized, ever since old Capt. Shaddock introduced the grapefruit into England from the wild groves of the East Indies, and gave it his own name, that neither the pear-shaped fruit that he found nor the round pomelo was all that it might be. The combined bitter-sweet flavor of the juice was attractive to many palates, but the sour was a little too pronounced and all but epicures insisted upon adding sugar. Horticultural experts devoted to citrus fruit culture and propagation saw in the tangerine, with all its condemning characteristics, others that might make it a desirable fruit. The pomelo of a new fruit combining the good in both. Of course, the union might bring out only the bad qualities in both, but that is a chance to be taken in all propagation.

For years the Department of Agriculture has been crossing between various varieties of citrus fruits, few of which have proved to be worth while, but the cross of the tangerine and the grapefruit, to which the most attention was given, has proved to be worthy and has been named tangelo.

As a class, these fruits resemble oranges more than either of their parents and are exceedingly variable, sister fruits from seeds of a single cross-pollinated fruit even being very unlike. Second-generation seedlings, however, reproduce the parent variety almost as closely as though grown from a bud of the parent tree.

Two well-recognized varieties have been thoroughly tested, and for a number of years have been distributed to co-operators for further trial. These tangelos are called the Sampson and the Thornton. The Sampson is, under normal conditions, a decidedly late fruit, maturing in Florida through March, April and May. The Thornton is considerably earlier, the time of ripening, however, seeming to vary in different sections, though it usually is not mature before January or February. Some trees, however, have lately come to notice, the fruit of which is distinctly early ripening in November and December.

Manufacturing Alcohol.

With the harvesting of a larger than usual potato crop in Denmark, the alcohol manufacturers are obtaining permission to resume business on a somewhat larger scale, and expect to make 800,000 gallons, compared with 600,000 last year.

Japan's Income Tax Increases.

Japan having decided upon an increase in her navy that involves the expenditure of \$150,000,000, spread over six years, a general increase of taxation has been proposed, and it will probably be carried out.

The income tax is to be raised in a way to bring an aggregate addition of 20 per cent, the increase being graduated so as to be only 10 per cent upon the smallest incomes and 50 per cent upon the largest. The minimum income tax will be \$250.

A war profits tax is to be initiated on both business profits and on incomes, but no personal income of less than \$1,500 a year will be taxed on account of its having risen during the war, and in this way the wages of working people and moderate salaries do not have to pay for the war increase of war time. Higher than \$1,500, personal incomes must pay 15 per cent of increase and companies that have increased profits must pay 20 per cent tax upon the increase.

All of the more formidable college crews of the United States will compete in the American Henley at Philadelphia this year.

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Portland, Ind.—"I had a displacement and suffered so badly from it at times I could not be on my feet at all. I was all run down and so weak I could not do my housework, was nervous and could not lie down at night. I took treatments from a physician but they did not help me. My Aunt recommended Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I tried it and now I am strong and well again and do my own work and I give Lydia E. Pinkham's Compound the credit."—Mrs. J. JOSEPHINE KIMBLE, 935 West Race Street, Portland, Ind.

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