

# REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

## The "Times" on the Navy

ELSEWHERE in this issue is an editorial from the London *Times* which is worthy of being preserved by every student of the naval question. The arguments in favour of immediate contribution and ultimate development of local navies are clearly and moderately stated. The *Times* recognizes that a policy of permanent contribution such as some Canadian "centralists" advocate is neither possible nor advisable.

The article also answers the false cable despatches concerning New Zealand which have appeared in Canadian newspapers. New Zealand, like Canada, looks forward to having a fleet of its own, manned by its own officers and men. So does Australia, which has already a naval college for the training of officers and men. Every over-seas Dominion is opposed to permanent contributions and is in favour of local fleets as fast as they can be built and manned.

One excellent suggestion must be emphasized. The training of officers and men must be undertaken at once if ships are to be manned seven years hence. This is a point which the Borden programme has overlooked. Instead of talking about our inability to man ships, the Borden administration should have announced its determination to push the organization of educational facilities for providing crews for the ships which are to be built during the next ten years. This is the real "emergency."

## Skilled Men Required

ANOTHER article in this issue, by our Washington correspondent, shows that more than half the men on a warship are specialists. The modern complicated bundle of machinery, called a war-vessel, cannot be manned by idlers, loafers or hooligans. It must be supplied with expert mechanics, men who know much about machinery of all kinds. The men required for a Canadian fleet must be largely trained men—not fishermen. A knowledge of how to peel potatoes, coil ropes and swab decks may suffice for ten per cent. of the crew, but the ninety per cent. must know more than that. They must understand the telephone, the gasoline engine, the wireless telegraph, the delicate mechanism of gun breeches, the working of torpedo tubes, and the hundred and one delicate pieces of mechanism which give vitality and efficiency to a perfect war-vessel. A perusal of Mr. Fawcett's article will make this clear.

This article emphasizes also the need for an immediate policy of naval education, if Canada is in the near future to be of anything like the assistance it can be in the matter of Imperial defence.

## A Typical Ship's Crew

THROUGH our Washington correspondent we have obtained a list of the men on the U. S. S. Connecticut for a recent week. The total complement is 845. The actual number on board was 799. During the summer there is an extra supply of commissioned officers, marine officers, and midshipmen. Of the total complement, 467 are in the seaman branch, 52 in the artificer branch, and 241 in the engine-room force. Seven special officers make the total of 845. In addition there are 64 marines. The seaman branch consists of 145 seamen of the higher grade, 233 seamen of the lower grade, and 89 petty officers—a total of 467. In the artificer branch there are 32 electricians, 6 carpenters, 6 shipwrights, 1 blacksmith, 2 plumbers, and 5 others—a total of 52. In the engine-room force there are 24 machinist's mates, 20 water-tenders, 2 boiler-makers, 3 blacksmiths, 2 copper-smiths, 20 oilers, 80 firemen, and 90 coal-passers—a total of 241.

A study of these figures shows that there are 468 men, ordinary seamen and coal-passers, who may be classed as unskilled labour or men in training. The remainder of the 845 men are trained experts. This would indicate that about fifty per cent. of the men in the navy are mechanics and officers. The other fifty per cent. are ordinary seamen.

This supports our contention that the men required in the British navy to-day are not wastrels and loafers, but the very best class of trained citizens. Canada cannot expect to man a navy by drawing

on her fishermen only. A modern navy requires skilled men of several classes, and the training of these men for the future Canadian navy should begin now and be carried on assiduously so that we may be prepared to man a fleet when it is deemed advisable that we should have one. This trained force would also be available for British ships if a naval war should occur before they are required for a navy of our own.

## The End of the Debate

AS the naval debate grows to a close, the results may be summarized. When Mr. Borden, as opposition leader, moved an amendment to the Laurier naval programme, he advocated giving Britain cash to purchase or build two Dreadnoughts. When, as Premier, he brought in his navy resolution, he modified that policy and made it "ships, not cash." This was a considerable improvement over his earlier idea.

Again, when Mr. Borden and his followers first began to talk on the navy question, in November, it was quite evident that they were prepared for permanent contributions. Therefore they were at first disinclined to put any stress upon the clause in the proposed agreement with the Admiralty which gives Canada the right to withdraw the three Dreadnoughts for a Canadian navy if this should be found desirable at some future date. Later they emphasized the value of this clause, showing that they have since found out that Canada is likely to have a navy of its own some time.

Again, there have been signs on both sides of the House that the members realize this is a question which might better have been settled on a non-partisan basis. If this realization is deep enough in the minds of even a few, the future of the navy situation will be improved. No question of national and imperial importance may be settled on a partisan basis. If Canada is to have a navy of her own, the plan must receive the general support of both parties. There may be differences of opinion on details, but not on the general principle.

After all, the contribution of the three Dreadnoughts is only an incident, as is the giving of a Dreadnought by New Zealand. The discussion of the project and its effect upon the public mind are more important. Many a man has been forced by this discussion to make up his mind on a subject to which he had given little attention before, and the result must be satisfactory to those who are, like the CANADIAN COURIER, for "a Canadian navy first, last and all the time."

## The Stefansson Flag

MONDAY morning's *Mail and Empire* announced in large type that Stefansson "Will Fly Canadian Flag in Exploring Expedition." This will be news for Sir Joseph Pope, who says Canadians have no flag, and for the Rt. Hon. Mr. Harcourt, Secretary of State for the Colonies, whose official letter of May last to the Governor-General lays down the rule that Canadians are not to be allowed to fly the Red Ensign on land.

So long as Stefansson remains on his whaler he can fly the Canadian flag, but he cannot legally take his Canadian flag from the boat to the land. If the whaler returns to Victoria, B.C., while Mr. Stefansson pursues his investigations ashore in the Arctic, Mr. Stefansson will be without his Canadian flag until the boat returns. I forget what Captain Bernier did in like circumstances when he was asserting Canada's sovereignty in and around Hudson Bay and Hudson Straits. My impression is that I have seen a picture of a Canadian Red Ensign floating on top of a cairn raised by the doughty sailor who commanded the *Arctic*.

Of course, it may be that Premier Borden has had special permission from Sir Joseph Pope and Rt. Hon. Mr. Harcourt to fly the Canadian flag in the Arctic Circle. He probably is sufficiently *au fait* with these gentlemen to get this special privilege. I should advise him also to get special permission from the head office of the I. O. D. E. These Daughters of the Empire are very particular about the flag that is flown. They do not favour the Canadian flag at all, perhaps because it is the badge of "colonialism."

Or it may be that the second "centralist" news-

paper organ missed a step and intended to say that Stefansson would plant the flag of England, Scotland and Ireland in the Arctic Circle. This reference to a Canadian flag which does not exist may be merely a mistake of the news editor.

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## Straws in the Wind

THAT 1913 is to be another record year is evident. The price of money may be high, but the work of building railways, cities and towns will proceed apace. Last year the three large railway corporations carried out the work of constructing 2,000 miles of track and making other improvements with a total outlay of thirty millions. This year the miles of track to be built will be about seven hundred greater and the total expenditure about ten millions larger.

It is true this railway expenditure is not more than was expended in buildings in Winnipeg and Toronto last year, but it will be spread over the whole country and affect prosperity everywhere. It is also a barometer of other expenditures on construction work.

The latest immigration figures show that last year's influx of new settlers was larger by 50,000 or 60,000 than in 1911. The general feeling is that in 1913, the total immigration will total 500,000. If this be realized, then all kinds of business must show a further expansion this year. A country is never so prosperous as when it is providing for rapid increases in population.

The total foreign trade of Canada in January was \$75,871,000, an increase of more than twelve million dollars as compared with January, 1912. The increase, unfortunately, was entirely in imports, but it shows how the buying power of the country is keeping up. However, for the ten months ending January 31st, exports show an increase of over fifty millions, which is eminently satisfactory.

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## The Future of Mexico

FRANCISCO MADERO won the presidency of Mexico by the sword and lost it by the same influence, which recalls the words of an ancient soothsayer. His downfall was accomplished by two of his own officers, General Huerta and General Blanquet, who arrested him when he refused to resign after nine days unsuccessful fighting against the Diaz forces. Huerta was proclaimed provisional president, but General Felix Diaz is the real power. Francisco de la Barra is premier.

While the revolution is not unusual for a Latin country, the shooting of Gustavo Madero, brother and political lieutenant of the late president, and later the killing of President Madero himself, indicates that the ethics and humane standards of Mexico are not improving. It would be unfortunate if the United States were forced to establish a protectorate over Mexico, but at present there seems no other solution of the difficulty. The situation is somewhat analogous to those of India and Egypt, and of Cuba and the Philippines. The English-speaking peoples may be bitterly partisan in their political contests, but they settle their disputes without the employment of knives and pistols. In this respect the Anglo-Saxon peoples are a century or two in advance of the Latin races.

Mexico is a great and rich country. If the people were placed under the guardianship of the United States for twenty-five years, a generation might arise which would understand the value of constitutional government and the value of that justice which regards all men as free and equal.

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## The Defence of Miller

MOST of us will regret that Mr. Pugsley thought it advisable to defend Mr. R. C. Miller, of Montreal, for his refusal to give information to the public accounts committee. He admitted having paid \$41,000 to secure government contracts and he should have told to whom the money was paid. His excuse, that it might affect litigation pending in Montreal, was not valid under the circumstances. Either parliament is supreme or it is not. If it is, then its rights over-ride Mr. Miller's.

In any case Mr. Pugsley went rather too far in his defence. He made it appear to the country that the Liberal party was concerned in "hushing" the information. Sir Wilfrid Laurier maintains the right of parliament to hold Mr. Miller until he gives the necessary information, and his attitude relieves the situation somewhat. Nevertheless, no political party can afford to seem to be, even in the slightest degree, trying to shield a man who is charged with having made payments to public servants or even to agents of campaign funds.