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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1912.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE OVERSEAS DOMINIONS.

From the obvious fact that a statement made from personal knowledge must tend to carry greater weight than hearsay evidence, the views expressed by Mr. Hazen in his interview in The Standard yesterday will be accepted as an accurate summary of the opinion of the people of the Mother Country on Mr. Borden's proposals for co-operation in Naval Defence. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries has had unusual opportunities during the past two months to study the problem of Imperial Naval Defence at close range. Without trenching upon the question as to what course Canada will take, which will be decided only after mature consideration, Mr. Hazen emphasizes two important facts: That the German peril is no figment of the imagination, as we are expected in some quarters to believe; and that the Overseas Dominions, by a policy of active co-operation with the Home Authorities in Naval Defence, will have a world-wide influence in deciding the issues of peace and war.

It is instructive to recall Mr. Hazen's statements on these two points. He said:

By all parties in Great Britain the German menace is regarded as a very live question. There is practically a universal opinion that Germany is increasing her naval armaments and building Dreadnoughts for the purpose of contesting the supremacy of Great Britain, when it is thought the time is opportune for so doing.

A strong volume of public opinion is inclined to the view that if it is made apparent to the world that Great Britain's Overseas Dominions are prepared to stand by the Mother Country in case of war with Germany, such a course will have a most potent influence for peace, and in preventing a war now regarded as likely to occur in the future.

We need not enquire the sources from which Mr. Hazen gathered this information. It is only necessary to read the speeches of Mr. Asquith and the First Lord of the Admiralty to know that Germany's programme under the Navy Act, passed as recently as last May, is a direct challenge to the naval supremacy of the Empire. The challenge appears today in the words of the Navy Act. It will not be this year, nor next year that Germany will be ready, and war could be declared. Germany is not building up and developing her naval strength to protect imaginary Dominions Overseas. Looking to the future she will make her bid against Great Britain for naval supremacy, and all that it implies, only when she is fully prepared.

From the time of laying the keel to placing a Dreadnought in commission nearly two years must elapse, but that is not the only consideration. The gravity of the situation lies in the large number of armored ships which Germany will keep constantly in commission. The number is raised by the new law from 21 to 31, an increase of about 57 per cent. To meet this activity, with no desire for war but to maintain the 60 per cent standard of superiority which now prevails, Great Britain is also increasing the number of battleships in commission—a course which has entailed a drastic reorganization of the Navy—and has added four more battleships to the programme of the next five years.

But this is not the end, nor the beginning of the end. With the naval situation as it exists, history will repeat itself. Germany's struggle for supremacy will continue. Great Britain will also continue—as Sir Wilfrid Laurier remarked recently, thinking all the time of armaments and spending half her revenue upon them. If supremacy is to be maintained Great Britain has no option.

And here the second important fact which Mr. Hazen emphasized comes up for consideration. A closer and more inter-dependent alliance between Great Britain and the Sister Dominions of the Empire for co-operation in Naval Defence is becoming a probability of the not distant future. This policy is advocated by the Prime Minister of Canada, "the first born of the Imperial family," at a conference with the British Government. Mr. Borden's announcement is received with enthusiasm and unanimous approval by the people of the Mother Country. Public men and the press of both parties welcome the offer of the Dominion to share the burden of defence and the duty of upholding the supremacy of the Empire upon the seas. And the reason is plain. In the words of Mr. Hazen "a strong volume of public opinion is inclined to the view that if it is made apparent to the world that Great Britain's Overseas Dominions are prepared to stand by the Mother Country in case of war with Germany, such a course will have a most potent influence for peace, and in preventing a war now regarded as likely to occur in the future."

An Empire Navy as a potent influence for peace and for the prevention of war is the end to be attained. The principle to be enforced is not aggression against a foreign nation but protection of the Empire's supremacy on the seas by an Imperial fleet in which all the Dominions participate. Apart from the duty of loyalty to the Motherland, in giving this problem favorable consideration, each Dominion would be influenced by the vital importance of providing a fleet that can protect the trade routes against any foreign combination. There is sound reasoning in the unanimous opinion expressed in Great Britain that the co-operation of the Overseas Dominions in providing additional battleships and cruisers to augment the Home Fleet, would prove an answer to the German menace. "Safety in numbers" may be a trite saying, but, in the Naval Defence of the Empire, it is a guarantee of peace.

CO-OPERATION IN IRELAND.

An instructive summary of the investigations of Prof. Graham, of the Poultry Department of the Ontario Agricultural College, who has been in England, Ireland and Denmark studying the working of agricultural co-operative systems, is given by the Toronto Mail and Empire. Professor Graham believes that within fifteen years Ireland will surpass Denmark in the success of its co-operative farming. By the aid of the co-operative societies that sprang into existence after the forming of the Irish Agricultural Organization Society in 1894, the reconstruction of Irish agriculture has been phenomenally rapid and extensive. Practically it has been a new Ireland in the making.

The settlement of the agrarian troubles on a basis that favored the acquisition of holdings by the peasantry was the foundation for the new order of things. The poverty of the Irish farmers made it necessary to supply them with working capital, yet the fierce salmesties of the days of eviction and repression survived in sufficient

strength to make it advisable that the Government should not take the lead.

The magnificent labor of Sir Horace Plunkett in first organizing the central association and through it the many local co-operative societies supplied the key to the movement. Beginning with dairying and the marketing of butter, the co-operative principle has been extended to most other forms of farm production. The Department of Agriculture has been consistently promoting the education of the farmers, and the consequent general development has been extraordinary. From the depths of misery and wretchedness in the days when Ireland was said to need "twenty years of resolute government," the rural population has progressed so far that it is now threatening the supremacy of the famous Danish agricultural system.

Ireland illustrates in a peculiarly illuminating way, says the Mail and Empire, the extent to which co-operation can enter into the pores of rural life. The local societies have done much to heal political and religious feuds, to smooth over surviving remnants of passionate bitterness between neighbors. Only one society broke up through factious quarrel, the dispute in that case concerning Parnell. The societies have secured a reduction in railway rates, and have reorganized home industry sufficiently to stop the tide of emigration that for so many years threatened to settle the Irish question by depopulating the island. The progressiveness, the spirit and self-respect that have possessed the rural population following their success as producers for the English and Scotch markets is a remarkable tribute to the regenerative powers of the co-operative movement.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MONA LISA.

The Paris correspondent of Truth, London, gives an interesting explanation which he declares is "the truth at last," with reference to the mysterious disappearance of the celebrated painting, Mona Lisa, from the Louvre. The picture, he states, will never be seen again, because it was not stolen, but destroyed. He understands that it perished in the Louvre, a vengeful employee, smarting at dismissal, having poured sulphuric acid over the picture. This outrage was committed over a year or more before the reported theft of Gioconda. The custodians, it seemed, hoped that the original could be restored, and hung a copy in the galleries. But when it was certain that the acid had done its work too fatally, burning, vanishing and destroying the colors, and when experts began to whisper their doubts about the substitute, it was decided to let the painting be "stolen."

The police were allowed to work on that theory, although high officials from the first perceived its improbability. This was thought to be kinder to the public than frankly to admit that Mona Lisa was gone forever, while to let out the true story would have reflected even more severely than the report of the theft of the masterpiece upon the laxness of the Louvre staff. The Paris correspondent of Truth makes the statement that some parts of his revelation cannot be vouched for with "the same certainty" as others; but the explanation he gives is quite likely not to be far removed from the truth.

The Times expresses the opinion that Mr. Hazen owes the Liberal party in Canada an apology for insinuating that the party is disloyal in a speech delivered at a banquet given by the National Liberal Club in London. Mr. Hazen made no reference to disloyalty in any shape or form, and did not mention the Liberal party in Canada. Considering these facts and that Mr. Hazen's remarks, which the Times and Toronto Globe complain, were received with applause by a gathering of distinguished men, many of whom do not see eye to eye with him either on the subject of Reciprocity or Imperial Preference, these party organs appear to have wandered very far afield, and with poor success, in their search for ammunition.

Current Comment

The Smoking Habit.

(Tobacco Leaf.)
According to statistics there are consumed in the United States every day, 21,718,448 cigars and 23,736,190 cigarettes, without including those rolled by the smokers themselves. These figures are large. Taken alone, they seem to confirm the fears of those who go about dreading the ravages of the cigarette scourge. But measured against the population of the country they are seen to be small. They show a per capita consumption of less than a cigarette a day for the male voting population alone and considerably less than a cigar a day.

The Prey of Land Sharks.

(Montreal Gazette.)
Again comes the report from Quebec City that immigrants have been deceived by sharks employed at that doorway to Canada. This time definite charges have been made. They should lead to the punishment of the guilty. Robbing a newcomer unprepared for the sharp ways of men with easy jobs is even worse than robbing a native. The immigrant has enough to go through in securing entry without having to contend with evil doers the moment he steps from the ship.

Some Constituency.

(Winnipeg Free Press.)
The Eastern politician who finds it somewhat trying to have to make a round of the township fairs in order to keep in touch with his constituents may realize what an easy time he has of it, when he learns that J. L. Cote has just returned from a 2,600-mile journey in the constituency of Athabasca, which he represents in the Alberta Legislature. It is about as large as the three Maritime Provinces.

No Canadian Accent.

(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)
The Gentlewoman is a London publication which looks after society and other things. It has made the interesting discovery that Mrs. Borden "possesses all the great naturalness and restraint of the Englishwoman and has scarcely a trace of the Canadian accent." This is quite reassuring.

Mary's New Job.

(Pike, N. Y., Gazette.)
Miss Mary Sowerby has resigned her position in Walcott's store, her many friends will be sorry to learn. She made an excellent clerk, and was always pleasant and agreeable. But it is said she has received a much better offer where, for the present, she will have but one customer to wait upon.

The Exceptions.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)
New forms of distinction are constantly arising, the latest being that of the American citizen who has not been arrested on suspicion of being "Oyp the Blood" or "Leftie Louis."

Rising Ambitions.

(Winnipeg Tribune.)
We've beaten the Americans in rowing and lake sailing races. Why not build a big yacht and lift the America's cup?

Bearing Up Well.

(Moosjow News.)
It is remarkable how well the West is doing without Reciprocity.

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IN THE COURTS

COUNTY COURT.

The case of Alfred Burley vs. Wm. McCollom was continued before Judge Forbes and a jury yesterday morning. This is an action for the recovery of \$100 on a horse transaction. The plaintiff, who is manager of the Alfred Burley Company, general insurance agent, purchased a horse from the defendant and alleges that the latter represented the horse to be sound. The price paid was \$175. The plaintiff claims that after he purchased the animal he discovered it to be lame and unsound. The horse was afterwards sold at auction for \$75 and plaintiff is now suing for the \$100 he is out on the transaction. The plaintiff's case was finished yesterday morning on the examination of Dr. T. Fred Johnson, veterinary surgeon, who testified as to the condition of the horse. The defendant, Mrs. McCollom, and two children, Fred and Lulu McCollom, gave evidence as to what was said regarding the horse when it was sold to Mr. Burley. After the address to the jury A. Wilson, K. C., for the defendant, and J. B. M. Baxter, K. C., for the plaintiff, and His Honor's charge, the jury retired at 1 o'clock and after being out about twenty minutes, returned a verdict for \$100 in favor of the plaintiff.

IN CHAMBERS.

Further hearing in the claims of the Robert Ford Co. Ltd. vs. the Francis Kerr Co. Ltd. in liquidation, took place before Mr. Justice McKeown in Chambers yesterday morning. The evidence of Hammond Evans and Walter R. Miller for the plaintiff was taken and Francis Kerr gave evidence for the defendant. F. R. Taylor appeared for the claimants and J. King Kelley for the liquidator. His Honor deferred judgment in the matter.

PROBATE COURT.

Estate of Agnes Palmer, married woman, deceased. Last will proved whereby the testatrix gives all her estate to her husband, Caleb Read Palmer, whom she nominates as executor and who is accordingly sworn in as such. No real estate. Personal estate, \$6,000. Mr. Mariner G. Teed, K. C., advocate.
Estate of Henry M. Etter, late of the Parish of Simonds, farmer. Deceased died intestate leaving him surviving his widow, Minnie L. Etter and one child only, his daughter, Myrtis I. Etter. On the petition of those two the widow is appointed administratrix. No real estate. Personal estate \$2,500. Messrs. McRae, Sinclair and McRae, proctors.
Estate of Sarah A. Hamm, late of Boston, Massachusetts. Deceased died in Boston having first executed her last will whereby she gives to the five daughters of her brother, William Robert Mungford of Lubec, Me., \$500 each, and to her son, Robert, \$2,000, and to the four sons of her sister, Eliza Langmaid Jackson of St. Andrews, N. B., \$500 each, and various sums to a number of her nephews and nieces; to the Protestant Home of Boston for strays or waifs, or friendless orphans, \$500; to the Protestant Home for Aged Women, to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals, all of Boston, \$500 each. No executor is named in the will. James W. Moore, of Worcester, Mass., was appointed administrator with the will annexed in Massachusetts, and there being persons residing within the Province of New Brunswick belonging to the deceased, amounting to \$3,600, in St. John, administration is granted of the estate so situated within this province to the said James W. Moore, who being a non-resident of the said province, a commission is issued to a notary public there to administer the same and to report to him. Messrs. Barnhill, Ewing and Sanford, proctors.
Estate of Eliza Mills, late of South Bay, Parish of Lancaster, widow of George Mills, carpenter. Deceased had one child only which died in infancy. She left her surviving a brother, Andrew D. Gault, of South Bay, farmer, and the following nephews and nieces, and children of a deceased sister, Mary Ann Armstrong, namely: James Armstrong, of St. John, clerk; Emma, wife of Albert Hanson, of Fairville, surveyor, and Andrew Armstrong, of the same place, railroad employe. On the petition of the brother he is appointed administrator. No real estate. Personal estate, \$5,000. Messrs. Baxter & Logan, proctors.
Estate of John Ryan, late of St. John, gentleman. The executors, Patrick Ryan of the Parish of Simonds, surveyor, and Roddy Ryan, of the Parish of St. Martins, farmer, file their accounts and ask for the passing of the same and for order for distribution. Citation issued returnable on Monday, 17 October next at 11 a. m. Mr. J. Joseph Porter, proctor.

An Uncomplimentary Statement.

Montreal, Aug. 30.—The Acadians are rejoicing all through New Brunswick because justice has been done in getting rid of Romo, in giving them Mgr. LeBlanc for Bishop, has chosen an excellent priest, French-Canadian in sympathy. They rejoice because of the help that this will give to their religion and to their national sentiment. They expect renewed attacks from the Irish people, but they do not fear them." So writes Senator Polier of Shediac, N. B., in a letter today to Le Canada. Senator Polier is holidaying at Mantoulin. "I am at the end of the world among the Ojibways," he writes; "perhaps you believe that they are savages. Not at all. It is at St. John, N. B., that the real savages are found."

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