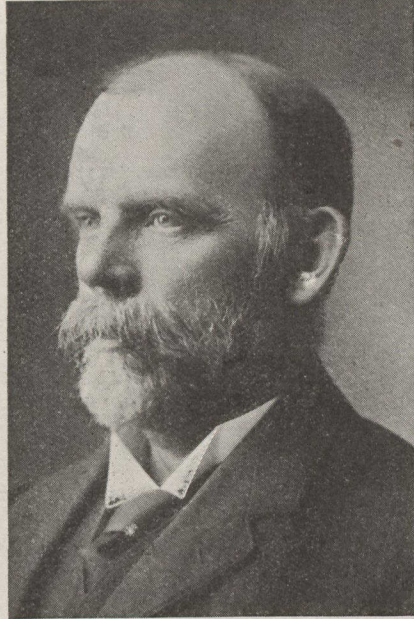




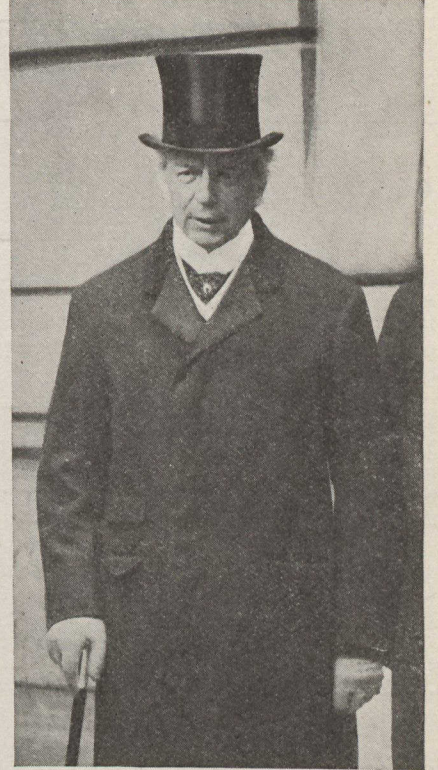
Mr. Borden, in England, said much, but kept much "sub rosa."



Hon. J. Douglas Hazen.
The Minister of Marine has said very little, but has spoken very softly.



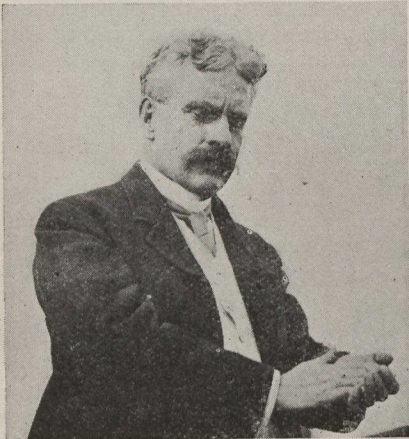
Dr. Michael Clark, from Red Deer,
Who says "the German scare is attenuated."



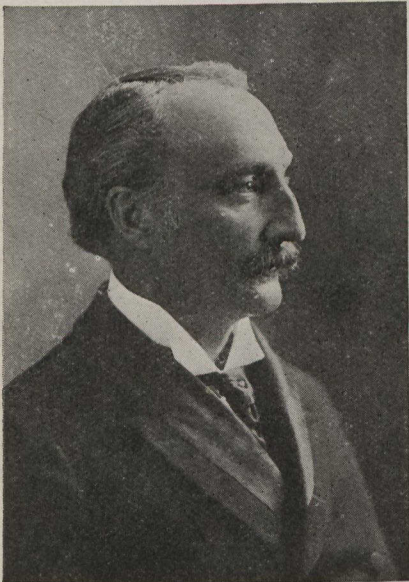
Last time in England, Sir Wilfrid, on matters of Empire, was sphinx-like.

Our Debatable Navy

By H. W. A.



The German scare is large and healthy.



Hon. F. D. Monk, M. P.,
Who resigned from the Cabinet on the Navy question. His resignation was caused by his pre-election utterances on the Navy problem. Like Dr. Michael Clark he did not change gears to suit the grade.

TWO parliamentarians stood watching the crowds gathered about the unopened entrance to the public galleries of the House of Commons during the progress of the naval debate. Both radiated an atmosphere of phlegmatic cynicism and boredom—with one the penalty of long experience; with the other the painstaking affectation of a youthful newcomer.

"And what does the country care about these heroics?" quoth the latter, evidently in response to some observation from his companion. "It doesn't take much to stampede Ottawa."

A square-shouldered, intense-looking man was bustling by and caught the comment. He stopped short and faced the young member. "Take much?" he repeated, sharply. "We are making history. We are making imperial history—more, we are making international history." And with that he shot on into the members' corridor. He was Colonel, the Hon. Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia and Defence.

Few Canadians will take direct issue with the cyclonic Minister's hyperbole. Most will, at any rate, grant that the situation is destined to become historic. And as such it will doubtless be chronicled according to the historical method—a method some writer has described as one by which the greater and most important portion of the people concerned are left out of the narrative, or are only admitted to become lay figures in it, clothes-horses upon which to hang those deeds that reflect the high light of achievement. History is a decimating thing. It reduces every hero down to his deeds. A sentence is devoted to his personality and a chapter to his performance.

The fault of not introducing more of the personal portraiture is emphasized by the tenacity with which the reader clings to such meagre details as have, perchance, crept in.

Who does not remember that the Iron Duke was bow-legged, or that the nasal appendage of Cromwell was decorated by a mole? And who, years hence, when the great naval conquest has been won, and all Christendom is chanting the glories of the Canadian Dreadnoughts or the prowess of the Canadian fleet units, will not be interested in recounting the events which brought these fighting forces into existence, and the manner of men who, by their voices and votes, contributed to the parliamentary annals of the occasion?

During the last year of Salisbury's British Premiership two zealous deputations waited upon him to urge the importance of taking steps to "draw more closely together the world-scattered colonies of English-speaking men." He replied that the enterprise involved the future of the British Empire and expressed the belief that the time had fully come for getting out of the sphere of mere aspiration and for invoking the strongest brains to examine the

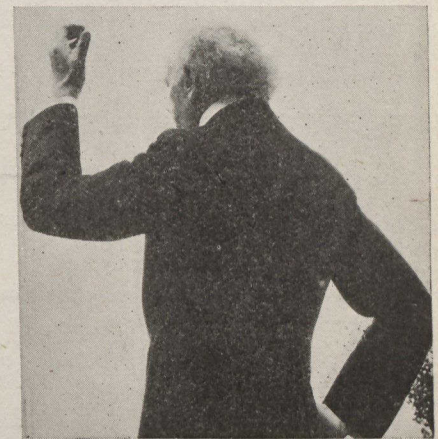
whole subject with the utmost care, with a view to a practical scheme which could be submitted to all the colonies. There Lord Salisbury left it. But there the Prime Minister of the Crown ought not to have left it. A question which has in it the vast destinies of the Empire cannot, and ought not to, be left to be battledored and shuttlecocked between Ministers and Federation Leagues. And itinerant evangelists of the Walter Long type, who visit Canada with the mission of impressing upon her self-governing people their ideals of the relationship which should exist between the Mother Country and her imperial progeny beyond the seas, are always open to objection on the score of breaking constitutional crockery or of dragging imperial matters into the arena of party strife.

It is good work that wants doing—and Canada proposes to do it herself, through her own Parliament; through her own people, if that be necessary.

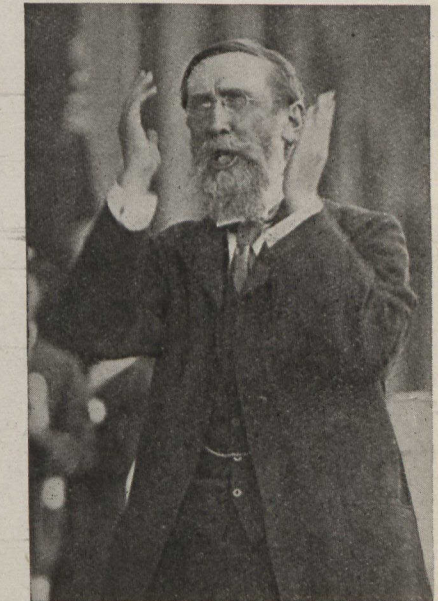
When Parliament adjourned for the Christmas recess, some days ago, two policies in relation to Canada's participation in imperial naval affairs were, as everyone knows, before the House. Premier Borden proposed a contribution of three Dreadnoughts at an estimated cost of \$35,000,000 to be placed at the service of the British Admiralty in the North Sea. Sir Wilfrid Laurier submitted a distinct development of his previous naval policy contemplating the construction of two complete fleet units to be stationed on the Atlantic and Pacific shores of Canada and to be at the service of the British Admiralty in time of emergency. Both policies have found effective advocacy from some of Canada's ablest parliamentary debaters. In support of the Premier's proposals the country has heard from Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine, and Hon. George E. Foster, while Sir Wilfrid's policy has found notable support in Hon. George P. Graham and Dr. Clark.

It was Canada's first dip into the realm of serious imperial and international questions, and she has had no reason to blush for the manner and method in which they were treated by those chosen to lead the discussion. New Brunswick seems to produce men who "fight with a smile." Like Hon. Dr. Pugsley, his predecessor from the little maritime province, "Dug" Hazen, is a master of soft tones and an archer of shafts encased in velvet. He affects the It-hurts-me-more-than-it-does-you style of administering punishment. He is grieved to expose his honourable friend opposite, but he emphasizes the "honourable" and the "friend." Again like Dr. Pugsley, his friends declare that there never was a more charming man, while his enemies maintain that no more odious and self-satisfied personality ever affronted the House of Commons. The charm and offence are largely due to the same causes. He

(Concluded on page 27.)



There is no immediate emergency.



"The word is not 'emergency.' The word is 'need.' Who is to be judge of the need: the Premier, who has been counselling with the Admiralty, or the right honourable gentleman, who has not had the knowledge?"