UNUSED GERMAN NAVY COST BILLION AND HALF DOLLARS

An article which will reassure those who are perturbed by the occasional losses of the British navy appears in the Fortnightly Review by Mr. Archibald Hurd entitled "No Naval Battle—Why?"

"Our margin of safety at sea has, indeed increased since hostilities opened," says, Mr. Hurd. "Instead of the enemy wearing down uor superiority we have increased his inferiority.

"When the war opened we were almost in the proportion of two to one against Gerinany; we have not lost even in the proportion of one to one, and we have passed a larger number of new ships into commission.

"After nearly three months of war we are actually stronger in material than we were, and the chances of German or Austro-Hungarian fleets endeavoring to resume the use of the seas has decreased.

"We have every day about four thousand ships moving on the oceans, engaged in trade; we have hundreds of transports bringing to our aid the military strength of the Empire; we have maintained our postal and telegraph communications with the uttermost parts of the earth.

"All these benefits the enemies have abandoned; they have evacuated the seas.

"The German navy at the outbreak of war represented the cumulative results of fifteen years of rising expenditure. The extent of the sacrifice made by the German pople in response to the demands of the Government can only be adequately appreciated if the movement be studied in its financial aspect.

"If we take full account of all the avenues of expenditure, revealed and unrevealed, it may be assumd that upon the effective German fleet, an aggregate sum of not less than £300,000,000 has been spent.

GERMANY WEAKENING.

"Gerqmany attained the second place among the great naval powers, but in the meantime, owing t oour unrivalled shipbuilding facilities, we had been enabled to reinforce our supremacy. Consequently in relation to Great Britain, Germany at the outbreak of war was actually weaker on the seas than she was three or four years before.

"What were the German people led to anticipate that their fleet would achieve? We have an official statement of Germany's ambitions, which the new navy law embodied in the memorandum accompanying the Navy bill of 190[illegible] This illuminating document was apparently prepared by Grand Admiral Von Tirpitz, the Naval Secretary. The first paragraphs are of particular importance

"'A naval war for economic in- in the light of recent events: terests, particularly for commrecial interests, will probably be of long duration, for the aim of a superior opponent will be all the more completely reached the longer the war lasts. To this must be added that a naval war, which, after the destruction or shutting up of the German sea fighting force, was confined to the blockade of the coast, and the capture of merchant ships, would cost the opponent little; indeed, he would, on the contrary, amply cover the expenses of the war by the simultaneous improvement of his own trade.

"'An unsuccesful naval war of the duration of even only a year would destroy Germany's sea trade, and would thereby bring about the most disastrous conditions, first in her economic, and then, as an immediate consequence of that in her social life.'

"Grand Admiral von Tirpitz was sufficiently innocent to assume that what was would always be, and hence the assumption that "a great naval power will not, as a rule, be in a position to bring all its striking forces against us.' Not only did the greatest naval power cary out the concentration which Grand Admiral von Tirpitz had assumed that it would not carry out, but by arrangement with France it was able, soon after the opening of the war, to entrust to Vice-Admiral Boue de Lapeyrere the defence of British interests in the Mediterranean. Thus we wre in a position to hold the North Sea with practically all her strength, as she does to-day, and consequently the basis upon which the expansion of the German fleet had been planned was kept away before tht peace was broken."

GERMAN STEAMER WAS ACTING AS MINE-LAYER

LONDON, Dec. 5.—The North German Lloyd Steamer Berlin, which was recently interned at Trondhjem, Norway, had, according to a statement issued by the British Admiralty to-day, probably been engaged in extensive mine laying operations.

When the Berlin put into Trondhjem, the Admiralty says she was "almost empty of coal, and with her speed considerably reduced, due, presumably to fast steaming."

Continuing, the report says: "She has especially been fitted for mine laying, but so far as known she now has no mines on board, the probability being that these have been sown on the high seas under cover of darkness. From past experience it is known that the track of merchant shipping, neutral as well as British, is a favored locality for this operation.

"German floating mines are constantly being sighted. On many occasions these mines have proved to be still dangerous. Merchant vessels should, therefore, be warned of the grave danger to which they are exposed. They must bear in mind that waters, which owing to their great depth, heretofore have been regarded as comparatively safe, must now be navigate dwith caution."

TO STOP THE VOTE

HAMILTON, Ont., Dec. 5.—Electors here may not have a chance to vote on a reduction of bar and shop licenses here in January. The hotel interests claim that there are many irregularities in the petition sent to the council and on the strength of which it was decided to submit a plebiscite. An injunction was asked for to-day, restraining the council from submitting the question to the people.

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Sir Nigel

By A. Conan Doyle

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A long table littered with flagons and beakers lay before them. It was lit up by a line of torches, which flickered and smoked in their iron sconces. At the farther end a solitary man was seated. His head rested upon his two hands, as if he were befuddled with wine, but at the harsh sound of the snapping bolts he raised his face and looked angrily around him. It was a strange powerful head, tawny and shaggy like a lion's, with a tangled beard and a large harsh face, bloated and blotched with vice. He laughed as the newcomers entered, thinking that two of his boon companions had returned to finish a flagon. Then he stared hard and he passed his hand over his eyes like one who thinks he may be dreaming.

"Mon Dieu!" he cried. "Who are you and whence come you at this hour of the night? Is this the way to break into our royal presence?"

Simon approached up one side of the table and Aylward up the other. When they were close to the King, the man-at-arms plucked a torch from its socket and held it to his own face. The King staggered back with a cry, as he gazed at that grim visage.

"Le diable noir!" he cried. "Simon, the Englishman! What make you here?"

Simon put his hand upon his shoulder. "Sit here!" said he, and he forced the King into his seat. "Do you sit on the farther side of him, Aylward. We make a merry group, do we not? Often have I served at this table, but never did I hope to drink at it. Fill your cup, Samkin, and pass the flagon."

The King looked from one to the other with terror in his bloodshot eyes. "What would you do?" he asked. "Are you mad, that you should come here. One shout and you are at my mercy."

"Nay, my friend, I have lived too long in your house not to know the ways of it. No man-servant ever slept beneath your roof, for you feared lest your throat would be cut in the nighttime. You may shout and shout, if it so please you. It chanced that I was passing on my way from England in those ships which lie off La Brechou, and I thought I would come in and have speech with you."

"Indeed, Simon, I am right glad to see you," said the King, cringing away from the fierce eyes of the soldier. "We were good friends in the past, were we not, and I cannot call to mind that I have ever done you injury. When you made your way to England by swimming to the Levantine there was none more glad in heart than I."

"If I cared to doff my doublet I could show you the marks of what your friendship has done for me in the past," said Simon. "It is printed on my back as clearly as on my memory. Why, you foul dog, there are the very rings upon the wall to which my hands were fastened, and there the stains upon the boards on which my blood has dripped! Is it not so, you king of butchers?"

The pirate chief turned whiter still. "It may be that life here was somewhat rough, Simon, but if I have wronged you in anyway, I will surely make amends. What do you ask?"

"I ask only one thing, and I have come hither that I may get it. It is that you pay me forfeit for that you have lost your wager."

"My wager, Simon! I call to mind no wager."

"But I will call it to your mind, and then I will take my payment. Often have you sworn that you would break my courage. 'By my head!' you have cried to me. 'You will crawl at my feet!' and again: 'I will wager my head that I will tame you!' Yes, yes, a score of times you have said so. In my heart, as I listened, I have taken up your gage. And now, dog, you have lost and I am here to claim the forfeit."

His long heavy sword flew from its sheath. The King, with a howl of despair, flung his arms round him, and they rolled together under the table. Aylward sat with a ghastly face, and his toes curled with horror at the sight, for he was still new to scenes of strife and his blood was too cold for such a deed. When Simon rose he tossed something into his bag and sheathed his bloody sword.

"Come, Samkin, our work is well done," said he.

"By my hilt, if I had known what it was I would have been less ready to come with you," said the archer. "Could you not have clapped a sword in his fist and let him take his chance in the hall?"

"Nay, Samkin, if you had such memories as I, you would have wished that he should die like a sheep and not like a man. What chance did he give me when he had the power? And why should I treat him better? But, Holy Virgin, what have we here?"

At the farther end of the table a woman was standing. An open door behind her showed that she had come from the inner room of the house. By her tall figure the comrades knew that she was the same that they had already seen. Her face had once been fair, but now was white and haggard with wild dark eyes full of a hopeless terror and despair. Slowly she paced up the room, her gaze fixed not upon the comrades, but upon the dreadful thing beneath the table. Then as she stooped and was sure she burst into loud laughter and clapped her hands.

"Who shall say there is no God?" she cried. "Who shall say that prayer is unavailing? Great sir, brave sir, let me kiss that conquering hand!"

"Nay, nay, dame, stand back! Well, if you must needs have one of them, take this which is the clean one."

"It is the other I crave—that which is red with his blood! Oh! joyful night when my lips have been wet with it! Now I can die in peace!"

"We must go, Aylward," said Simon. "In another hour the dawn will have broken. In daytime a rat could not cross this island and pass unseen. Come, man, and at once!"

But Aylward was at the woman's side. "Come with us, fair dame," said he. "Surely we can, at least, take you from this island, and no such change can be for the worse."

"Nay," said she, "the saints in Heaven cannot help me now until they take me to my rest. There is no place for me in the world beyond, and all my friends were slain on the day I was taken. Leave me, brave men, and let me care for myself. Already it lightens in the east, and black will be your fate if you are taken. Go, and may the blessing of one who was once a holy nun go with you and guard you from danger!"

Sir Robert Knolles was pacing the deck in the early morning, when he heard the sound of oars, and there were his two night-birds climbing up the side.

"So, fellow," said he, "have you had speech with the King of Sark?"

"Fair sir, I have seen him."

"And he has paid his forfeit?"

"He has paid it, sir!"

Knolles looked with curiosity at the bag which Simon bore. "What carry you there?" he asked.

"The stake that he has lost."

"What was it then? A goblet? A silver plate?"

For answer Simon opened his bag and shook it on the deck.

Sir Robert turned away with a whistle. "'Fore God!" said he, "it is in my mind that I carry some hard men with me to Brittany."

(To be Continued.)

GRANDMA USED SAGE TEA TO DARKEN HAIR

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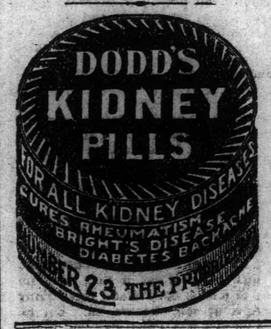
Common garden sage brewed into a heavy tea with sulphur and alshol added, will turn gray, streaked and faded hair beautifully dark and luxuriant, remove every bit of dandruff, stop scalp itching and falling hair. Just a few applications will prove a revelation if your hair is fading, gray or dry, scraggly and thin. Mixing the Sage Tea and Sulphur recipe at home, though, is troublesome. An easier way is to get the ready-to-use tonic, costing about 50 cents a large bottle at durg stores, known as Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound, thus avoiding a lot of muss.

While wispy, gray, faded hair is not sinful, we all desire to retain our youthful appearance and attractiveness. By darkening your hair with Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur, no one can tell, because it does it so naturally, so evenly. You just dampen a sponge or soft brush with it and draw this through your hair, taking one small strand at a time, by morning all gray hairs have disappeared, and, after another application or two, your hair becomes beautifully dark, glossy, soft and luxuriant.

The now famous Slingsby legitimacy suit opened in London.



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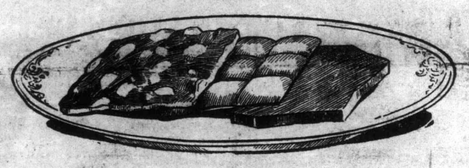

THERE'S many a man who, when he thinks he is unobserved, slips in and treats himself to some good old-fashioned toffee, and consumes it with all the old-time boyish relish.

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