

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1912.

THE REALITY OF THE GERMAN MENACE.

Bearing in mind the stirring events of 1909, when the people of the Mother Country and the Overseas Dominions were awakened to the progress of Germany's naval construction and all that it implied, it is instructive to note today when an equally grave menace is threatening the Empire, that the history of the trend of events in Canada is repeating itself.

There are occasions when even the most determined economist is willing to make a sacrifice. The safety of the Empire stands above all other considerations. No matter what the cost the safety of the country must be assured.

Mr. Balfour, the Leader of the Conservative party, followed and took an equally serious view of the situation. In the course of his speech he said:

I have been forced most reluctantly, not only against my wish, but against all traditions by which British politicians and statesmen have been animated for generations, and now for the first time in modern history, to declare that we are face to face with a situation so new, so dangerous, that it is very difficult for us thoroughly to realize all that it imports.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, made an emphatic declaration:

We, whose whole national life and security depend upon our supremacy at sea, cannot afford to go behind, to slacken our efforts, or to put ourselves in such a position that any contingency that might occur could possibly menace that independence and supremacy.

It is unnecessary to refer in detail to the naval situation of that day. The speeches quoted aroused the people of the Mother Country and the Empire to understand the reality of the German menace. The loyal response of the Liberal and Conservative press of the Dominion, except for certain objections raised in Quebec, was practically unanimous.

Canada is in the Empire, and being in it should pay for her footing. Some of us may regard militarism as madness, but if Canada by wiring into the European camp the news that she, like New Zealand and Australia will build one Dreadnought, and if necessary, two, can exert an influence in favor of peace at this critical time, it seems clear that Canada should "get on the wire" without hesitation or delay.

The whole nation was aroused. A referendum taken at the time would undoubtedly have resulted in the gift of two or more Dreadnoughts to the Mother Country. Only one essential detail remained. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had not spoken. The Government's intentions were not known.

The answer of Sir Wilfrid Laurier was an emphatic refusal to depart from the policy laid down at the Imperial Defence Conference in 1902, when the Government declined to contribute to the British Army and Navy.

The Navy Bill, introduced in January 1910, provided for the construction of four protected unarmored cruisers, one smaller vessel and six destroyers which might be lent to Great Britain in time of war by Order-in-Council. The contract for the construction of these vessels was not awarded when the Laurier Government were defeated last September.

With the passing of the German Navy Act in May of this year, a new and unlooked for situation has developed. Germany is setting up an entirely new standard in the maintenance of a war footing of a huge fleet such as no Power has ever before contemplated keeping up in time of peace.

We must have ample margins of strength instantly ready, and there must be steady and systematic development of our naval forces untrigly pursued over a number of years.

A reorganization of the Navy and Great Britain's naval programme is necessary. This was the situation when Mr. Borden and the Canadian Ministers arrived in London to confer with the Government on Canada's future policy of Naval Defence.

If we were asked to point out the greatest hustler in this country we would direct attention to the Duke of Connaught and his household.

which the immediate future required of them would not be delayed pending the development of permanent naval arrangements, was received with enthusiasm by the people of the Mother Country.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier made his first speech on the naval situation last week. He expressed his conviction that "the German peril does not exist," and again emphasized his belief in the principle of autonomy, which as he interpreted it in 1909, does not require the Dominion to take part in Great Britain's wars.

AN IMPORTANT MEETING.

The members of the British Institute of Journalists have decided to hold their next annual meeting at Montreal. The announcement is important, says the Toronto News, for it means that a very large number of Old Country editors and working newspaper writers will learn something of this Dominion and take back their first-hand knowledge for the benefit of their readers.

As the membership of the Institute is 5,000, and as a considerable percentage of this membership will take advantage of the trip, the influence thus set in motion will be powerful. It is highly desirable that the people of Canada and the people of the British Isles should get into closer touch and understand each other.

Financially the visit of so many newspaper men should benefit Canada, for their writing will undoubtedly lead to increased emigration and investment in British North America. To Mr. Harry Braeg, editor of the Canadian Municipal Journal, chairman of the Canadian Division of the Institute, is due the credit of securing this important convention.

THE ELECTRIFIED CHICKEN.

According to an article by Mr. T. Thorne Baker, in the London Times, chicken raising by means of electricity is highly successful. Experiments with electrical currents applied to the growing of farm and garden crops have been in progress for several years; the good results obtained therefrom led Mr. Baker to try the application of a current to his poultry yard.

The chickens subject to this abnormal treatment, he writes, grow to the same weight with two-thirds the normal amount of food; fed with the normal amount of food they gain nearly 40 per cent. more weight in three months. The electricity treated chickens are far stronger, and weakly chicks, which ordinarily would have died, thrive under the treatment.

Chicken farming has long had attractiveness for many who seek a "back to the land" life. Now comes a new hope, that electricity may be the means through which the chickens will survive and thrive. Fowls that are hatched in an incubator and raised by means of electric currents may be far removed from nature, but they ought to be just as good eating as those produced by old-fashioned methods.

Current Comment

Advertising Signboards. (New York Tribune.)

It is pleasant to learn from our Paris correspondent's cable despatches that President Fallieres has signed the bill imposing practically prohibitive taxation on advertising signboards, which was fully described in these columns some time ago.

Laurier's Statement.

Sir Wilfrid may have had his own naval achievements in mind when he so earnestly thanked God that Canada had not been drawn into the race of armament. But we will be greatly surprised if the sentiments expressed by Mr. Borden in England, which show Canada clearly seized of her duty as a daughter of the British Empire, do not meet with greater approval in this country than the shortsighted views of the ex-Premier.

A Good Record.

Canada's increase in population in the last decade was 24.1 per cent, as compared with 20.5 per cent. in New Zealand, 21 per cent. in the United States and 15.2 per cent. in Germany. This is a good record for Canada, but the larger part of the increase has been by immigration. The natural increase has been below the normal.

Against the World.

The Panama situation simmers down to this: The United States was allowed to become the trustee of the rights of the whole maritime world. The confidence reposed in it has been betrayed. It has forfeited its position by malfeasance. Now the world falls back upon anterior trusteeship of Great Britain.

The Right Sort of Royalty.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, the Duchess and Princess Patricia have truly won the Canadian heart. Simplicity, unaffectedness and common sense have been the keys. Canada is and will remain democratic, but it appreciates democratic royalty.

Chance of a United Front.

If our politicians are as big as the majority of editors then there is hope for Canada presenting a united front to the enemies of the Empire.

Our Busy Duke.

Our Busy Duke. (Ottawa Free Press.)

If we were asked to point out the greatest hustler in this country we would direct attention to the Duke of Connaught and his household.

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