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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1912.

"AN IMPERIAL FLEET."

An editorial in the London Daily Telegraph, which The Standard prints herewith, commenting on Mr. Winston Churchill's speech, and giving a review of the naval situation, will be read with very general interest. The Telegraph is a recognized authority on naval affairs. It is also one of the leading journals in Great Britain supporting the Unionist party. The tone of the article is strongly in favor of Mr. Churchill's proposals and clearly indicates that there is no difference of opinion in the Mother Country as to the wisdom of the Government's policy. The gravity of the situation is universally realized. The offer of co-operation made by Mr. Borden at this juncture on behalf of Canada, "the first-born of the Imperial family," and his suggestion that the Dominion should share in the Councils of the Empire, are welcomed not only as showing a willingness on the part of Canada to bear a share of the burden, but as an assurance that the Empire is being "welded into a close-knit organization," and that a "new partnership" between the Mother Country and the Dominion is being signed. The article which appeared after Mr. Churchill's speech on the Supplementary Naval Estimate is as follows:

Yesterday, in full view, not merely of the British people, but of the nations of the world, a new page in the history of the Empire was turned. The Dominions have asked that they shall be summoned to our councils, to the councils of peace and war; the Mother Country has now given the call. The occasion was the discussion of the Supplementary Naval Estimate which was published on Friday last. A matter of 1,500 more men and about a million more money for the fleet. The debate might easily have degenerated into a party wrangle over tons and guns. The First Lord of the Admiralty, with a courage which rises far above the perils threatened by "waves" and "cliches," lifted the matter to a high plane, and with Mr. Borden and his colleagues of the Canadian Cabinet looking down on a crowded Assembly, told the truth, and the whole truth, of the new situation which has been created by the German Navy Act passed this year.

While admitting the heavy responsibility which will rest on British taxpayers in the years to come, he announced that Canada had determined to help bear the burden. The first-born of the Imperial family with her own problems and her fresh young vigor, has risen to the opportunity which the British Empire has offered. European horizons have presented to her, and realizing, to quote the Dominion Prime Minister, that "the day of peril is too late for preparation," is already here in our midst offering her aid. When the renewed rivalry in armaments was first rumored, the outlook seemed ominous of a storm which might jeopardize our sea-power, which means our freedom.

There was a talk of the decreasing mobility of the British squadrons, and a narrow selfish policy was preached. We were told that we must measure our responsibility by our immediate needs, and that in any case that responsibility was merely to provide such a naval force as could "defend these islands." There was an endeavor to put blinkers on the British people, to recommend to them, on the score of economy, a blind absorption in their own petty interests which would have sounded the death-knell of the Empire. The danger is past, and who can doubt that we owe our salvation in large part to the visit to these shores and the participation in the higher councils of State of the representatives of the Great Dominion on the other side of the Atlantic?

We now have two assurances which will give new strength to the inhabitants of the United Kingdom, who bear upon their shoulders the main weight of the Empire. Mr. Churchill was not in a position to go into details of the co-operation in naval defence which Canada will offer. Those will be revealed first to the people in whose name the offer will be made. But we now know that "Canada is about to shoulder a portion of the burden, not that we may bear less, but that the margin of safety may be increased by her efforts." We also know on the authority of the Prime Minister that Canada—and the other Dominions will follow her magnificent lead—will be called to the councils of the Empire, in recognition of the new partnership which is about to be signed.

"Side by side with this growing participation in the active purpose of the Empire on the part of the Dominions," Mr. Asquith declared, "with the approval not only of the House of Commons, but of the whole country, there rests with us undoubtedly the duty of making such response as we can to their obviously reasonable appeal that they should be heard in the determination of the policy of the Empire." Under the imminent peril which embraces every British interest, the Empire is being welded into a close-knit organization for the purposes of peace and war and a great fighting fellowship is an ideal already well within our grasp.

In such an atmosphere as Mr. Borden and his colleagues have created who now would dare to approve the lowering of British power and prestige in any of the Seven Seas? Mr. Churchill yesterday gave a lucid and brilliant exposition of the inevitable growth of naval power in northern waters in a statement which, unless the British public have lost all sense of feeling, will, as Mr. Balfour remarked, cause more grave concern in the country even than the speech made by Sir Edward Grey three years ago. This is not a matter of building a ship more or less, but of new squadrons and flotillas always manned, stored, and victualled, and ready for instant action. Naval warfare differs essentially from land operations, because the first blow is all-important, and before reserve resources can be mobilized hostilities may reach a decisive phase, which will render those reserves useless. As Nelson once said in a despatch, "Time is everything; five minutes makes the difference between a victory and a defeat." These words are the key to the new situation.

Under the German Navy Act the standard of her naval armaments—the number of ships and men—is being increased, but the really menacing development is that four-fifths of her navy will be kept in future, most importantly prepared to respond to the demands of Imperial policy, whatever they may be. The standing fleet, which, we are assured, is being provided for defence, will be as powerful for aggression. We in this country cannot believe that it would be used recklessly

in pursuit of any ideal incompatible with the interests of neighbors—because in these days of commercial interdependence war is a two-edged weapon—but it is impossible for us, of all the nations of the world, to ignore the scale of maritime strength which is being set up, even though in the years ahead hands should stretch in friendly greetings—as we hope and trust—across the grey and troubled waters of the North Sea. Under the new act every element of sea-power is being added, and a new standard of efficiency is being created, which must impose on us at least the burden of war in order that we may enjoy the blessings of peace.

The nation and the Empire look to the Government to carry out the Prime Minister's all-embracing pledge when he announced that the security of our shores, our first place to maintain the security of our shores, our Dominions and our commerce, and in the next place to ensure the peace of the world. "These," he stated, "are the two guiding objects of British policy—objects which will be pursued whatever party is in power." We do not want more, and we can be satisfied with nothing less. Any departure from this higher policy means suicide. Not a foreign soldier need land on our shores, not a foreign ship of war, it may be, would frighten our gaze, but once these ideals were abandoned our ability to shape our destiny would be gone from us, and we should cease to exist as a Great Power. The British peoples may well take as their motto in the new and enduring naval crisis which lies ahead the maxim of the Emperor of Japan—who may never, unhappily, speak again words of encouragement to his subjects—when he warned them that a single day's neglect in regard to matters of defence may involve a century's regret.

Mr. Churchill incidentally revealed the policy of the Board of Admiralty as to the defence of British interests in Southern waters, where we are faced with a simultaneous expansion of naval force. On this subject the nation has felt well grounded anxiety since his speech in March last, when he announced that in future there would be no battle squadron based on Malta, and that the Fourth Squadron of the Home Fleets would, from its strategic position at Gibraltar, be able to give immediate assistance in home waters or in the Mediterranean, should naval combinations in that area render its presence necessary or useful.

Mr. Churchill, we may be sure, had no idea that this new disposition would be regarded on the Continent as a policy of scuttling, an admission of weakness, and a resignation to continued inferiority. That, however, was the view taken abroad, and throughout the Empire his later declaration will be welcomed with relief and satisfaction. Gibraltar is still to be the home of a powerful pivot force—almost equidistant from Portsmouth and Malta; but the latter base is to be the headquarters of a powerful command, which will embrace four Dreadnought cruisers, four armored cruisers of great fighting value, and flotillas of destroyers and submarines—in fact, "a respectable force," as Sir Edward Grey promised.

In addition there are to be some submarines specially assigned to the defence of the Egyptian littoral and the entrance to the Suez Canal. This represents a considerable gain in fighting strength in these waters, and, since it meets with the concurrence of Mr. Churchill, and expert advisers, the nation will not be prepared, we assume, to regard the new measures as inadequate to the present situation. But there is magic in the word "battleship" from the point of view of prestige, and if, as is credibly stated, the Government have accepted the responsibility of maintaining a one-power standard squadron in these waters—so vital to our Imperial and commercial interests—it may be hoped that the Admiralty's future plans will be such that at no distant date we shall be enabled once more to have a veritable battle squadron definitely based on Malta. As a temporary measure the new squadron represents an actual gain in fighting efficiency, and we can only trust that the Foreign Office may not find that the change is accompanied by any temptation to diplomatic weakness. For the First Lord showed that he has a firm grasp on the naval problems of the hour. His younger officers and the men of the fleet will be heartily approved, though it must involve very heavy expenditure. Victory lies not in ships or in men, but in ships and men in close association, bound together by a spirit of co-operation. It is only thus that we can expect in new conditions which will rapidly crystallize, and Mr. Churchill yesterday, with his eye to the future, with the support of the Prime Minister and the encouragement of Mr. Balfour, laid foundations upon which, in years to come, it will be the privilege of the Mother Country and the Dominions, in closest cooperation, to erect no mean edifice as a symbol of Imperial unity. After yesterday's debate there can no longer be a doubt as to the resolve of all the Britains to defend their glorious heritage with the utmost resources of the Empire.

Current Comment

(Victoria Colonist.)

If it is well, and it undoubtedly is, that Canadian Ministers should occasionally visit the Mother Country, it is none the less well that British Ministers should occasionally visit Canada. Let everything be done that can be done to make citizens of the Empire everywhere realize that they form one people, possessing one nation, animated by the same traditions and pursuing one common object.

(London Free Press.)

The Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal) says if Mr. Borden proposes to present a Dreadnought to the British Navy it will not be an original proposition. Our country claims to have made the suggestion three years ago. But will the Free Press now support Mr. Borden if he carries out the suggestion, its own political friends having failed?

(Railway Age Gazette.)

Whatever else an investigation of one collision accident is here and another there may disclose, there is one condition that every such investigation discloses, and that is the tendency of employees chronically and persistently to take risks, and the tendency of railway officers chronically and persistently to tolerate the taking of risks.

(Hamilton Herald.)

Yoshihito, the new Emperor of Japan, belongs to the oldest dynasty in this world. All other dynasties—even that of the Roman pontiffs—are young compared with his. He is the 122nd Emperor, and directly descended from a monarch who reigned in 650 B. C., and was worshipped as a god. How much farther back the line goes is not known.

(Canadian Courier.)

"Mabee was a good man. He was the only man we ever had that told us to go to the mischief when he felt like it—and we usually went."—David McNicol, First Vice-President of the C. P. R.

(Vancouver Province.)

Sir William Macdonald, the Montreal tobacco king, is the greatest bank shareholder in Canada. Sir William is a fine out type of a man whose fortune was acquired by continuous juggling.

(Lippincott's.)

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The News in Short Meter

LOCAL.

Civic Pay Day.
Yesterday Cashier Willett paid out the sum of \$6,493.64 in wages to employees of the ferry, water and sewerage and public works departments.

New Brunswick Poultry for C. P. R.
Through Seth Jones, poultry superintendent of the province, an arrangement has been reached whereby New Brunswick poultry will be served on the C. P. R. liners running from St. John during the winter months. Formerly the C. P. R. obtained its supply of poultry from Ontario, but in future they will serve New Brunswick birds. The new plan will open a market for many tons of poultry.

Property Sales.
Mrs. Mary Coker's property on Brussels street has been sold to Bruce S. Robb at a handsome advance over the price paid for it a few months ago. The property at 390 Union street, formerly owned by Peter C. Sharkey, has been sold to outside parties. The purchase was purely a speculative one.

Accidents.
While Patrick Graham, of Church Avenue, Fairville, was cutting wood in his yard on Thursday evening the axe slipped and entered his left hand inflicting a bad gash. Mrs. Walter Turnbull, of Market Place, West End, while sewing on Thursday afternoon was also the victim of a peculiar accident. The needle entered her hand and broke off. Dr. F. H. New rendered necessary surgical assistance.

Police Court.
Samuel Teofulus, clerk in John Sperdake's fruit store, Charlotte street, was in the police court yesterday morning charged with assaulting F. E. McManus. The trouble started from a dispute in connection with the purchase of some fruit. Several witnesses were examined and the case was adjourned until this morning when further evidence will be heard. William Guthrie, who escaped from the chain gang last September, was fined \$8 for drunkenness and was remanded on the more serious charge of being a fugitive from justice. Mrs. Mary Macie and Mrs. Mary Stogger, who were arrested in connection with a raid on a German street house of ill repute a few days ago, were allowed to go on condition that they leave the city at once.

PROVINCIAL.

Mission Conference at Sackville.
Sackville, Aug. 2.—The mission conference opened with a registration of 60, which is considered quite a satisfactory start. Prof. Desbarres, in the absence of Dr. McKay, led off this morning with a lecture on the Prophet Jonah. Rev. E. Hennigar, returned missionary from Japan who is a native of St. John, is in charge of a class beginning in religious studies with the work in Korea.

Burglary at Memramcook.
Moncton, Aug. 2.—Chief of Police Ribbent this morning received word that the store of M. Leser, Memramcook, was broken into last night. Nine dollars, a collection of old coins, cigars and minor articles were stolen. The police here are on the lookout for burglars.

Killed in Miramichi Mill.

Chatham, Aug. 2.—Allan McDonald, of Chatham, was killed in Sinclair's mill at Bridgetown this morning. He was going from the mill to the yard when his clothing caught in the pillar shaft and he was whirled around in the machinery. He was an experienced mill man and generally regarded as one of the best men in his line on the North Shore. He leaves a family.

ALL PROVINCES

ADOPT TERMS OF THE MEDICINE ACT

Ottawa, Aug. 2.—All the provinces of Canada having accepted by concurrent legislation the terms of the Canada medical act, medical reciprocity in Canada will now go into effect. Henceforth any physicians holding a certificate of the Dominion medical council can practice in any province. Owing to the system of separate councils in the past, an Ontario physician for instance, could not practice in Quebec unless he passed the Quebec council.

Under the new act there will be three members of the council residing in different provinces, appointed by the Dominion government, two more will represent each province, and each university or medical school connected with the university will have one member. In addition to these there will be three representatives of the homeopaths. The term of office will be four years. Representatives of the various provincial councils will shortly meet Hon. Dr. Robb to give effect to the legislation.

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