

tury', that it is guns and men that count; and my hon. friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster), not to be outdone by any one else, told us, as reported at page 3473 of 'Hansard':

When I find a nation like that putting on, with surprising rapidity and wonderful minuteness of detail, worked out to the very last degree, the construction and fitting out of a fleet which in four short years has waked up old England as she was waked up in 1909, and which comes close indeed to rivalling her in the effective counting power of war to-day, the Dreadnought and the super-Dreadnought—I told you when I look at all that and see Germany's allies, and see how few Britain has, and recognize that within sight of the homes of Britain all that immense fleet, like hounds in leash, are held compact, sheltered by their compact army and dominions behind, whilst the British dominions circle the globe and are exposed in every quarter of the earth, and have to be watched and guarded and warded by the British fleet.

Well, suppose we take it at that. To begin with, I do not suppose that any hon. member of this House on either side will be so disloyal to the race from which he sprang as to say that an Englishman is not as good a man as a German any day. I read an article which appeared in the Canadian 'Courier' in the beginning of the month. This is an independent paper published in Toronto. I do not know what are the political leanings of its editor, but I have been informed that he is personally a strong Conservative. But whether he be Conservative or Liberal, he manages to make a very independent paper. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I should like to read this article, written by the editor himself:

Opponents of the Canadian navy idea assert that Great Britain is in danger of being defeated by Germany 'now' or 'soon.' From this they argue that to be an effective aid to Great Britain we should construct a Dreadnought in Great Britain at once or contribute enough cash to enable Great Britain to construct one at once. They never tell us exactly why they think Germany will fight soon, nor why they think that if a fight occurred Great Britain stands the slightest danger of being defeated. Hon. R. P. Roblin recently made a long speech on the subject in Winnipeg, and the best he could do in the way of quoting an authority was to cite the opinion of ex-Senator Chauncey M. Depew. This was a joke. What the Hon. Chauncey knows about warships and European conditions would hardly fill as much space as one of the chestnuts he cracks in an after-dinner speech.

Now is there any authority whose word we can take any impartial observer with expert knowledge?

How would the Naval Department of the United States do? They issue an annual report on the standing of the navies of the world. If they think Germany is beating Great Britain in naval progress, that would

justify the opponents of the 'tin-pot' Canadian navy and support a movement for a quick contribution. Their report for 1909 is just out and it should be examined.

In that report they group Dreadnoughts and cruisers of the 'Invincible' type because both are armed with big guns mostly eleven-inch or over. Of these Great Britain has seven completed and nine under construction. Total 16. Germany has two completed and nine under construction. Total 11. How long will it be before Germany can beat Great Britain in that particular? Won't it be sufficiently distant to enable us to build a few warships and train a few thousand men?

Of battleships of the first-class other than Dreadnoughts, Great Britain has forty-nine and Germany twenty-four. How long will it take Germany to catch up with Great Britain in that particular? Won't it be long enough for us to build several first-class cruisers in Canadian shipbuilding yards?

Of armoured cruisers other than the 'Invincible' type, Great Britain possesses thirty-five and Germany nine, and the British vessels average more tonnage than the German. How long will it take Germany to catch up with poor decrepit Great Britain in that particular? Can she do it in ten years? Can she do it in fifteen?

Of torpedo-boat destroyers Great Britain has 148 and Germany 79. Can you see Germany gaining on Great Britain in that particular? Can she catch up before the little Canadian fleet is built and organized, and Canada given a real place in this naval game?

The truth is that in either present tonnage of war vessels or projected tonnage, Great Britain has nearly three times the strength Germany has, presuming, of course, that the United States naval department knows what it is talking about, as well as a discredited ex-senator of Congress.

Those who examine the facts will be surprised to know that Germany's present fleet does not equal that of the United States. Uncle Sam could go up against the Kaiser at the present moment, with a fair chance of success. And even Uncle Sam admits that Great Britain's fleet is unmeasurably superior to his.

The real truth of the matter, as pointed out by the 'Scientific American,' is that Germany had to get into a feverish haste over warship-building or the United States would have had a fleet unmeasurably superior to Germany's. That journal says: 'As late as a year ago, when Germany had no Dreadnoughts afloat, she actually possessed only fourteen battleships capable of fighting effectively at modern ranges, as against twenty-five flying the United States flag, and forty-nine under that of Great Britain.'

Think of that ye self-appointed protectors of crest-fallen Great Britain! Think of that, ye followers of Chauncey Depew! Think of that, ye blindfolded politicians who would rush Canada into an ill-considered naval policy! A year ago, the German fleet was about one-half the strength of the United States fleet in long-range work, and only one-quarter the strength of the British fleet. Germany had reasons for her haste. The fight in the Sea of Japan proved to Germany that her fleet