

The Navy League, 13 Victoria St., London, S.W., June 26th, 1901.

To the Editor:—On October 20th, 1900, the Navy League issued a statement of facts showing that Great Britain, after holding the command of the sea unchanged for the better part of a century, had lost it because:

First, our recent naval programmes for men, ships and material had been insufficient.

Secondly, the programmes proposed by the responsible minister and sanctioned by parliament were not carried out with safety, and had not been carried out.

Thirdly, the ships that were included in our naval estimates, although laid down, had been delayed on the stocks, or were under equipment, until some of them would be obsolete before they were complete, and a large number of the promised battleships were not yet included in the programme.

Fourthly, other nations have outstripped us and successfully increased their programmes of naval construction, thus still further diminishing our relative strength.

Fifthly, a new and resolute claimant for sea power has arisen.

When the new board of admiralty succeeded to office, after the general election of 1900, the executive committee of the Navy League considered that it was only fair to the British public to advise the league to refrain from hampering them by representations or criticism until they had had time to make their own estimate of the situation.

Nine months have now elapsed since the present government was formed. The Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty have had ample time to acquaint themselves with the facts. They have visited the various dockyards, have seen the work being done, and have made their own estimate of the situation.

While crediting the present board of admiralty with good intentions, we believe that the support of public opinion is necessary to enable my lords to hold their own on behalf of the navy, and that the time has now arrived to speak out.

The House of Commons has sanctioned a plan to spend £20,000,000 on an army corps that cannot leave England unless the navy is supreme. And the navy is supreme in England.

No more dramatic contrast than that presented by the actual condition of the main fighting vessels of the navy and the belief held by the public at large as to their efficiency and efficiency. With the army coked up in South Africa and dependent for its return upon the supremacy of the navy, it is disquieting to know that in the Mediterranean the battle for Empire will probably be fought out, the fleet under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, and provided with many of the best essentials of efficient fighting. When the Lords of the Admiralty visited Malta, they found:

1. No breakwater at Malta, although within 210 miles of a foreign torpedo station.

2. Egypt undefended.

3. A deficiency in all classes of vessels from battleships to destroyers.

4. Complete absence of fleet auxiliaries of all kinds. No provision has been made for: Hospital ships, *repairing ships, frozen meat store, mother ships for destroyers, efficient colliers, telegraph ships.

5. Owing to the lack of provision, no adequate provision has been made for the first essentials of efficient fighting: e.g.: Telescopic sights, gyroscopes, smokeless powder for the 13.5 inch guns, armoured piercing shell, breech-loading field guns, wireless telegraphy.

Black powder and blunt-nosed shells are still in use in several battleships, thus enabling the commanders of foreign battleships provided with smokeless powder and armour-piercing shells to destroy them at their leisure. The lessons of the Boer war appear to be still neglected.

It is needless to impress upon the public that the fighting fleets of Britain are not ready for war; and until the Mediterranean squadron is re-equipped in every respect, the whole structure of the Empire rests on a quicksand.

The non-expenditure of £4,500,000 voted by parliament, which occurred under the late board of admiralty, notwithstanding the repeated assurances of Lord (then Mr.) Goschen in the House of Commons that the estimates for the respective years were not to be exceeded, is a striking example of the failure of the British Government to carry out its obligations.

Either the country was unsafe, or the Lord of the Admiralty was not speaking the truth. Nothing is gained by endeavouring to conceal facts relating to the navy which are well known to foreign powers concerned. England is neglecting her fleet because the electorate believe the navy to be sound and efficient. So far as the officers and men are concerned this is doubtless true. The personnel of the navy is probably more efficient to-day than it ever was. It was in Nelson's time. From top to bottom the spirit of duty and sacrifice is universal. The defects of the navy are due to civilian neglect, and not to the officers and men.

The Lords of the Admiralty are overworked with detail, have not time to think, and there is no department corresponding to the German general staff where the quality of provision is exercised at leisure and while we are at peace.

While the intention of the admiralty is to send reinforcements when the proper time arrives, a moment's consideration will show that now is the time when our relations with France and Russia are on a friendly basis, not when those who are strained and might conceivably be hampered by ill-informed comment at home.

Reinforcements are delayed until war is imminent, the admiral in command of the fleet will have his attention distracted from the business of war by the necessity of educating the public in the intellectual and physical powers of any human being.

The essence of maritime war is its suddenness. A day's command in striking the first blow may make the difference between the fall of Empire and the annihilation of its enemies. Naval disaster would be the result for Great Britain, final and irreparable.

No money, no energy can atone for neglect of the navy in time of peace. The reserves of ore or the output could be increased if necessary to two, three or even four times what it is at present, but it is not deemed expedient to do so, and it is even within the range of probabilities that the output may be lessened, as it is manifest that the owners of mines producing large quantities of lead must cut the output down in order that there may be an advance in the price of that metal.

Last year it is claimed that the production of lead in Great Britain and Ireland was some 60,000 tons in excess of the consumption, and it is therefore manifest that a halt must be called to the output of lead in order that the price will fall sufficiently low.

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Mining News

Moyle's Mines.
The town of Moyle is one of the most picturesque in the East Kootenay, being situated on Lake Kootenay, a beautiful sheet of water. The town is built on a slope between the lake front and a mountain side which rises nearly 2,000 feet above the level of the lake.

The strike of the 2,700 employees of the Reading Iron Co., including the tube works, the Ninth street and the Oley street mills, and the sheet mill is over. They met on Saturday, when the proposition of Vice-President Smith was unanimously decided to accept the offer.

The first international convention of the Anti-Cigarette League concluded its sessions at Buffalo on Saturday. The following officials were elected for the ensuing year: President, Frank Buckley, Toronto; first vice-president, Alvery Casey, Buffalo; second vice-president, Miss Edith Wildermuth, Allegheny; secretary, Charles Dick, Chicago; treasurer, Emmet Harvey, Louisville.

In the case of the city of Winnipeg vs. C. P. R., the application for special leave to appeal from the Supreme Court of Canada to the Privy Council, made before the latter body in London, has been refused. The suit was for \$30,000 claimed by the city for school taxes, and the company contested on the grounds that the by-law passed exempted them from taxes, school as well as municipal.

Manitoba courts decided in favor of the city and Supreme Court against it. The litigation now ends.

About 400,000,000 pounds of soap are used in Britain yearly.

It is said that the best walking pace is seventy-five steps per minute.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

Angustus Bent, a farmer of Belleville, Annapolis county, committed suicide by hanging.

J. Pierpont Morgan has bought the Chilian section of the Trausandine railroad for £90,000.

Applications for harvesters are pouring into the Manitoba government. It is estimated that each farmer will require from four to eight extra hands. One township alone wants 125 extra hands.

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A-GLOOMY OUTLOOK.

Parts of Russia Threatened With Famine—Winter and Summer Grain Cannot Be Saved.

St. Petersburg, July 2.—Large parts of the Empire are again threatened with famine. The last official report, which has just been published, shows that 21st. Since then not a drop of rain has fallen in the Eastern provinces.

The provinces of Samara and Safoff will probably witness a recurrence of the dearth of two or three years ago, and a dearth in these provinces is particularly dreaded on account of the ignorance and helplessness of the Pashkies and Tartars, who make up a considerable part of the population there.

The newspaper Volzky states that from all sides reports are coming in that both winter and summer grain are beyond hope of salvation, even should there be ample rains, and no hay will be harvested.

Since early in June the temperature has been about 101, and no rain has fallen. The fields are burned down and the feeding of cattle and horses has already begun to be a problem.

The same kind of reports are coming from the province of Kazan. The Volga provinces have already been visited by two severe famines during the last ten years, and the population has lost whatever power it once possessed to withstand famine.

The Situation in Cleveland.
Cleveland, Ohio, July 15.—Between 400 and 500 men employed at the Crescent Tin Plate Mills, in this city, obeyed the strike order of President Shaffer to-day and as a result the plant is practically idle. The Crescent is the only plant affected in Cleveland by the strike order. It is controlled by the American Tin Plate Co.

Mills Reopened.
Cumberland, Md., July 15.—None of the men employed by the Republic Union & Steel Company and the independent bar iron plants, 500 men altogether, for the support of the strike against the United States Steel Corporation. This will give a fund of nearly \$25,000 per month. The association has in its treasury some \$300,000 for the purpose of carrying on the strike.

Will Hold Out.
At Niles, Ohio, July 15.—The strike order will be obeyed. The works of the American Tin Plate Company will not work to-day, and the general sentiment of the men is that they will hold out until the combine grants their demands. About 800 men will be affected in this mill alone.

In Mahoning Valley.
Youngstown, Ohio, July 15.—Not a wheel was turned this morning in any of the plants of the American Steel Hoop Company or American Sheet Steel Company, in the Mahoning valley. The sixth district is the strongest, numerically, in the Amalgamated Association, and the men are a unit in observing the strike order issued by President Shaffer. The Steel Hoop Company has five plants in Youngstown, Girard, Warren and Greenfield, and the Sheet Steel combine has four in Struthers and Niles; all are organized.

Vice-President Ward on Sunday organized the men of the iron four mill at the Niles & Iron & Sheet Company, in this valley. Seven hundred men are indirectly affected by the strike.

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Lord Kitchener also reports that Steyn's commando has announced in the Associated Press dispatches early last week) burned the public buildings in Murraysburg, Cape Colony, and some farm houses in the vicinity.

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"Gen. Devet is believed to have been present."

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RAIN AND HAIL.
Crops Have Been Beaten Down in Georgia.

Atlanta, Ga., July 15.—A Constitution special from Elberton, Ga., says: "A rain, thunder and hail storm passed over the district yesterday afternoon. Many trees and houses were blown down and crops beaten to the ground, four inches of rain falling."

Rained for Thirty-six Hours.
Baleich, N. H., July 15.—The down-pour of rain on Friday night, yesterday and last night was again disastrous to farms and railways.

The rain has now fallen over 36 hours and is practically no interruption. The smaller streams are raging. All farm work is at an end for several days.

EPWORTH LEAGUE.
Message From President McKinley Will Be Read To-morrow Evening.

San Francisco, July 15.—President McKinley has sent word that he will be pleased to extend his greetings to members of the Epworth League on the opening of their national convention in this city. He is also expected to touch a button which will sound the first note of "America" on the grand organ in the pavilion on Tuesday evening. "The tune of the National Anthem will then be taken up by a chorus of 1,500 voices, and at the conclusion the message from the President will be read.

STEAMER WRECKED.
Hamburg, July 15.—Captain May of the German steamer Tisbe, from Hamburg on June 21st, for Jonte Video, cables that his vessel ran ashore at Punta Mogotes and is a total loss. Her passengers and crew are proceeding for Monte Video.

FIRE UPON CAPITAL.
Manila, July 12.—Cebu, capital of the island of that name, is still frequently fired upon by the insurgents. General Hughes in the Philippines islands, reports progress in the task of penetrating the island of Samar and scattering the insurgents.

BACK AT WORK.
Wilmington, Del., July 15.—The striking machinists of the Harlan & Hollingsworth Company returned to work to-day in accordance with an agreement reached.

DAMAGES FOR LABEL.
Miss Hetty Chatter, an Actress, Awarded £2,500 in Action Against London Daily Mail.

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ANOTHER STRIKE.
Boiler Makers, Blacksmiths and Helpers in Railway Shops Quit Work.

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Jefferson City, Mo., July 15.—At the churches yesterday prayers were made for rain. At the Roman Catholic churches prayers are said at each mass daily for rain, under an order of Archbishop Kaine, of St. Louis. At night the Methodist, Baptist, Christian and Presbyterian congregations united in a union service at the Presbyterian church and prayers for rain were offered. Governor Dockwray is receiving hundreds of requests beseeching him to issue a proclamation to the people to assemble and pray for rain.

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