

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1912.

## MEETING THE EMERGENCY.

Latest advices from the Old Country give the assurance that the British Admiralty, being under no delusion as to the reality of the German menace, are not only accelerating the shipbuilding programme but before the close of the present year will begin the construction of a battleship, the first example of a type of greater tonnage and higher speed, and altogether more powerful than any war vessel yet built. Great Britain gave the Powers a problem to ponder over when the first Dreadnought was commissioned in 1906. Super-Dreadnoughts followed, and vessels of this type are still being built. According to reports in well informed British naval circles, however, a class superior to the super-Dreadnought will be the reply to Germany's formidable programme of warship construction.

The plans of the new battleships have already been received at Portsmouth and Devonport dockyards. This new type of ship will be 700 feet long, and will have a displacement of 30,000 tons. For propelling, high power geared turbines are to be used, giving a speed of about twenty-nine knots—a phenomenal speed for a battleship. The guns will probably be of 14-inch calibre, an advance upon the 13.5-inch weapons of the super-Dreadnought type. Ten of these guns will comprise the main armament, the guns being mounted in pairs in barbettes in such a way that an all-round fire can be maintained. The first new ship of this class will be completed within two years.

By way of comparison it may be noted that the biggest warship now in the British navy is the battle-cruiser Queen Mary, recently launched at Devonport, which has a displacement of 27,000 tons, and engines of 75,000 horse power, giving a speed of twenty-eight knots. The super-Dreadnoughts at present building, and which this new type will supersede, are the Iron Duke and the Marlborough, both of which have a displacement of 23,000 tons, a length of 600 feet and are armed with ten 13.5-inch guns. These two vessels will be launched next month, on October 12th and 26th respectively.

One of the most interesting features of the new battleships, it is reported, will be a curved upper deck of armor as a protection against bombs thrown from aerial craft. The rapid progress in aeronautics and the demonstrated danger from dropped bombs must be anticipated. That straits lately given by naval airmen have shown that leading down to the furnaces and engine rooms need to be screened. This will be a distinct feature of the new design, and, probably, also steps will be taken to give better protection against aerial attack in the case of vessels completing and already in commission.

The reports from naval correspondents in the British press clearly indicate that the policy Mr. Churchill announced in the House of Commons on July 22nd is being faithfully carried out. "We must have," he said, "ample margins of strength instantly ready, and there must be a steady and systematic development of our naval forces, untiringly pursued over a number of years." In addition to the developments that have been outlined it is reported that two other warships, building under contract, will also be accelerated and that at an early date eight light armored cruisers, which figure in the Government's programme, will be laid down. Twenty destroyers which have been in hand since last spring are now in advanced stages of construction.

This policy must be "untiringly pursued." That Canadians of all shades of political opinion realize the Dominion's vital interest in the naval situation has been wonderfully demonstrated during the past few days by the enthusiasm which has marked the reception to Mr. Borden. Canada is ready and anxious to share the burden of Imperial Defence with the Mother Country, not looking to war but in order to maintain the Empire's supremacy of the seas as a guarantee of the world's peace. The memorable words of Mr. Churchill, on the historic occasion above referred to, will not be forgotten.

"ALL THE WORLD IS ARMING AS IT HAS NEVER ARMED BEFORE. WE HAVE TO FACE THE SIMULTANEOUS BUILDING BY MANY NATIONS OF GREAT MODERN SHIPS OF WAR. WE HAVE TO PROTECT FROM ALL DANGER OR ALARMS DOMINIONS AND TERRITORIES SCATTERED OVER EVERY CONTINENT AND ACROSS EVERY OCEAN. WELL DO WE UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH OF MR. BORDEN'S WORDS."

"THE DAY OF PERIL IS TOO LATE FOR PREPARATION."

"THERE IS AN EARNEST DISPOSITION ON THE PART OF THE SELF-GOVERNING DOMINIONS TO ASSIST IN THE COMMON DEFENCE OF THE EMPIRE. THE TIME HAS NOW COME TO MAKE THAT DISPOSITION EFFECTIVE. APART ALTOGETHER FROM MATERIAL AID, THE MORAL EFFECT OF THE ARRIVAL ON BLUE WATER OF THESE NEW NATIONS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE CANNOT BE MEASURED."

## REORGANIZING THE EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

One of the first problems which Hon. Martin Burrell, the Minister of Agriculture, tackled when he took office was the reorganization of the Dominion's system of experimental farms. He found the farms were in many cases run down, the barns were out of repair, the farms were not up-to-date, they were not proving of value to the agriculturist, they were not in other words real experimental farms, where farm problems could be worked out and solved. Last winter Mr. Burrell called a conference of the superintendents of the farms throughout the Dominion. They met in Ottawa, discussed amongst themselves mutual problems and talked over with the Minister ways and means of improving their work, so that the results of their investigations can be of permanent benefit to the agricultural community.

Mr. Burrell's energetic policy is already bearing fruit. The barns and properties of the experimental farms all over the Dominion are being improved. The superintendents are taking a keener interest in their work and they are extending their activities. Efforts also are being made to have the experimental farms of each district deal more effectively with local agricultural problems.

As far as New Brunswick is concerned the people of this Province have very recently had a practical demonstration that this is a Government which does things. In the past the Province has never had the advantage of an experimental farm. During the past month the Department of Agriculture has purchased a suitable farm, two

miles from Fredericton, an ideal position practically in the centre of the Province, and has added to the acreage a second farm in order to more efficiently carry out the work. Mr. W. W. Hubbard, whose experience as Provincial Secretary of Agriculture has brought him into close touch with all the farming interests in the Province, has been appointed superintendent. It is safe to say that no better appointment, or one more popular with the farmers, could have been made. It is understood that Mr. J. F. Grisdale, superintendent of Dominion Experimental Farms, who is now in the West, will visit New Brunswick at an early date to confer with Mr. Hubbard as to the development of the property in the farmers' interests.

In establishing this farm in New Brunswick Mr. Burrell is fulfilling an old plank in his platform. As long ago as 1907, before he had entered public life, the present Minister of Agriculture attended the Dominion Fruit Growers Conference at Ottawa and was made chairman of the committee on resolutions. He utilized the position thus given him to advocate a number of reforms and improvements, one of which was to equip New Brunswick with an experimental farm. On entering office Mr. Burrell took steps to carry out the policy he had enunciated years ago.

The work of the Agricultural Department is obviously Dominion-wide, and attention has to be given to all branches of agriculture. For instance, in the Province of Alberta there has been for several years an experimental farm at Lacombe of very restricted size. Lacombe is in the heart of what has been and should be a fine cattle raising and breeding country. The Lacombe farm, however, on account of its small area has been unable to experiment to any extent with stock problems. The Government have bought a large addition to the farm and in future the Lacombe farm will make cattle raising one of its special features. The particular needs of each Province have to be dealt with as circumstances may require. That is the agricultural policy of the Borden Government. It is a policy which pays.

## THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BULL MOOSE.

Despite the scorn heaped on Mr. Roosevelt and the Progressive party, and the sneers which are prevalent in the pure-blooded Republican press, it is becoming evident as time goes on that the Bull Moose is making things very uncomfortable for Mr. Taft and seriously marring his chances of nomination for the Presidency. A case in point occurred in the recent election in the State of Maine where the Republicans, who at first were overjoyed at the election of Mr. Haines as Governor, have now discovered that Mr. Haines is hand in glove with the Bull Moose party.

Prior to the election assurances, indirect, but regarded as none the less reliable, reached the managers of President Taft's campaign that Mr. Haines would be "all right" once the election was over; for this reason the Taft people consented not to insist upon the introduction of National Issues in the Maine campaign, believing that a Republican victory in Maine would be followed by a general declaration on the part of the successful candidates of their determination to support the Republican National ticket. Thereupon, immediately after Mr. Haines' election, President Taft sent a congratulatory telegram congratulating the new Governor upon the victory in "redeeming" the State, adding the remark that it was a "significant" victory.

"Significant" was not entirely inappropriate. The Bull Moose replied in a speech at Tacoma, declaring that he had assurances long ago from Mr. Haines that Haines was for the third-term candidate but preferred not to declare himself until after the election. This move is to date as "practical" a piece of politics as has been seen in the campaign. The obvious purpose was to enable the Bull Moose party to get full control of the machinery of the Maine State Government, placing the entire patronage of the State at their disposal. The scheme has worked effectively and the Republican managers of the National campaign have been badly hoodwinked.

Equally disastrous to Mr. Taft is the course which the Roosevelt adherents in the Government service appear to be following. Instead of resigning in a body immediately after the Chicago Convention in June, as they were inclined to do, the story goes that they were advised to go about it deliberately, thus stringing out their resignations over a considerable period. In the meantime the President is being deprived of the services of these officials so far as his own campaign is concerned, while the third-term candidate is really being "protected" by having these sympathizers in positions of authority. They are said to include a number of high ranking officials in the treasury and interior departments.

Another astute move on Mr. Roosevelt's part is his appeal to social discontent in an effort to capture the labor vote. It is reported that many thousands of workers will on this account vote the Bull Moose ticket. There are many indications that the third-term candidate did not sit in the seats of the mighty for seven years without learning the niceties of "practical" politics. If he cannot win he has his revenge in the split in the Republican party and the almost certain defeat of his "dear friend" Taft.

## Current Comment

Costly But Necessary.  
(Christian Guardian.)

Canada must bear its share of the Imperial burden. That the burden has to be borne at all is a thousand pities. Some day the good sense of the nation will triumph and a policy of international naval and army retrenchment will become possible. Just now it is not possible and the peace of the world must be bought at a terrible price and our own Empire must foot a mighty bill. We will prove ourselves unworthy of it if we shrink our share.

Variegated Honors.  
(Edmonton Journal.)

Newspaper men are coming up in the world. It was stated the other day that one of them in Regina is a millionaire. Another has been elected Chancellor of the University of British Columbia. But the triumphs of these gentlemen pale beside that of the Pittsburg editor who has been enrolled in the glorious company of Lillian Russell's husbands.

Canada's Chief Divorce Centre.  
(Windsor Record.)

Toronto the Good has fallen upon evil days. The once mighty city is now the divorce centre for Canada. There have been twenty notices of application for divorce filed at Ottawa and twelve of them came from our beautiful capital city of Ontario that once had a high moral reputation. What's gone wrong with Toronto?

Some Development.  
(Montreal Star.)

The city of Edmonton finds it necessary to pass a by-law prohibiting the erection of buildings more than ten stories in height. Yet there are people in the East who still say that the development of the West is a myth!

It Might Be Worse.  
(Ottawa Journal.)

A town in Hungary has decided to tax the bachelors to support the children's hospital. And at that they get off without having to walk the floor at night.

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## FIGHTING TURKS FROM THE CLOUDS

Graphic Description of Trip of An Italian Dirigible Over the Enemy Near Bengazi.

The first stage in the use of dirigible air craft in war has been reached. A dirigible has been used to carry out a reconnaissance in actual fighting. Its crew has reconnoitred the enemy's position, made sketch plans, taken photographs, and dropped bombs and two facts have become abundantly plain. One is, that we are at the beginning, and that there is evidently no limit which we can foresee at present to the use of air craft in war; the other is, that the possession of an effective air fleet is an imperative necessity, not of tomorrow, but of today. If today, war were declared between two powers, the power possessing the most efficient air fleet, ceteris paribus, would win. This, if any military expert ever doubted it, has been made a clear certainty by the work of the Italian dirigible PI in a reconnaissance of the Turkish position near Bengazi, described by the special correspondent of the Turin Stampo.

The PI left its hangar at six in the morning, carrying on board the commandante, Penco, the pilots, Capt. Saymandi and Lt. Bangali, and a supply of bombs. It rose over the sea to a height of 1000 metres, turned eastward over the oasis of Koedia and satisfied itself that at the moment the oasis contained none of the enemy.

Next it turned south towards Muf-ta, near which, at the foot of the Djebel and on the plain, lay the Turkish lines. As soon as the PI came near the camp the Turks opened rifle fire; this proved futile, and the PI dropped a bomb among the tents, which took instant effect. The Turks ceased their rifle fire and brought their artillery into action. They had previously pointed their guns on the slopes of sandhills, burying the tail of the carriage so as to take the recoil without overturning the gun.

They sent their shells up almost vertically, but their fire was wild and harmless, and the dirigible, dropping bombs, proceeded on its course. It completed an exact reconnaissance of the enemy's camp, estimated the numbers of Turks posted at the disposal of the position, and in two hours returned unharmed to the Italian lines, with the whole plan of the Turkish position at its disposal of the Italian general. The dirigible, in short, that morning obtained for nothing information for which a general would have sacrificed troops as a plain duty. She was unopposed; she was in the position of a warship able to outrange the ships engaging her; she could hit without being hit, and see without being pursued. It must have been an exhilarating two hours for her Italian crew; for the Turks, it is difficult to imagine a more hopeless and helpless experience.

Spectator.

## BIG OWL FOUND IN ROUND HOUSE

A short time after engine 417, which came in on the Maritime express, was placed in the round house last night, a driver on his way to take out another engine, found a monster owl lying dead on the pilot.

The bird of night had evidently been crossing the track, and getting confused in the glare of the brilliant headlights, had struck against the front of the engine and had then fallen to the pilot where it was later found.

The wings of the bird had a spread of nearly four feet. It was sent to St. John last evening to be stuffed and mounted.—Moncton Times.

## OLD LANDMARK GONE

The site of the Protestant High School property in Montreal removes one of the old landmarks of the western section of the city. This property has a large frontage on Peel street, Metcalf street and Burnside street, and is probably the choicest hotel site in the city. The whole property is surrounded on all sides by the largest and best stores in the city, also theatres, clubs, banks, etc., being only a block and a half from the Windsor Hotel, and two and one-half blocks from the C. P. R. station.

This property was bought at public auction for \$1,269,755 by the City Realty Investment Co., already the owner of a large number of valuable properties in the heart of the city, and which, under the management of Mr. J. E. Elder, has so far been very successful. The whole capitalization of this company is only \$2,000,000, of which \$1,000,000 is in stock, and the other million was recently issued in the form of 5 per cent. convertible debentures which can be exchanged for stock at the option of the holder. The net profits, so far this year, are somewhere around half a million dollars, and by this recent issue of debentures, it is provided with cash which enables it to compete in deals of a size which would preclude all but the wealthiest of financiers.

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