

## Looking the Gun- Raising Project

"Britain wins again!" cries a hostile editor in denouncing President Coolidge's refusal to sanction the elevation of guns on our capital ships. "We read that naval officers are 'muzzled.' For, as the Sacramento Bee (Ind.) tells us, 'in thus surrendering without further to-do to a protest from Great Britain, he not only has gone contrary to the expressed conviction of his own Secretary of the Navy and other high officers of the same, but has condemned the American fleet to a position of permanent inferiority to that of England.'"

Indeed, as we are reminded, this very point was made by Victor Bywater, a British naval expert, in a dispatch from London, and the California native quotes him as saying, "In long-range firing—that is to say, at any distance above 22,000 yards—the American fleet is demonstrably inferior. The thirteen of its eighteen battleships can not throw their shot beyond distance; while, according to the figures, all units of the British battle fleet can fire up to 22,000 yards. If the two fleets were to meet in combat, this American deficiency in length of reach would prove fatal. So The Bee recalls Mr. Coolidge said about national use in his speech of acceptance, comments, 'The gulf between phrases and actions—how wide deep it is!' Meanwhile, the Cleveland Plain Dealer (Ind. Dem.) remarks:

The President makes a substantial concession when he accepts the British interpretation of the disarmament treaty and disapproves the gun-elevation programme contemplated by the Navy Department.

Full accord between these two English-speaking nations is a thing to be desired. In certain events crises have to be made to preserve the peace-orientation, case, in the present opinion, justifies a sacrifice on the part of the United States. It will demonstrate the wisdom of the President, but how far is furtherance of the same kind to be made?

A time may come when insistence on our rights in these matters will be placed above regard for national views as to what our duty is. It was so in the case of the Japanese immigration law project. No less firmness should our rights under the disarmament treaty be pressed. The American navy should be made in fact, what it is in name, equal to that of England, and the United States should be the contrary notwithstanding."

However, the Brooklyn Citizen declares, "The President would have sanctioned the elevation of the guns of the British fleet if war should break out, it would be the United States Navy that would defend this country, not Great Britain. But the New York Times, it feels that 'President Coolidge is entirely right,' and objects:

Great Britain having protested to the United States, it is the duty of the United States to do as much to change the position of guns until all the nations to the Washington Treaty are satisfied and the controversy is settled. It can not be decided by the President of the United States. The impression that Great Britain is mainly endeavoring to subordinate the American capital ships to her own may do her an injustice. It would be incredibly stupid of Great Britain to file a protest against gun-elevation if she did not have that reference to the work of naval experts who advised the British at Washington would justify her. In this point of view she is, of course, wrong, but at least sincerity should not be lightly questioned."

The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin (Rep.) believes that, "in this matter the American people are well to trust the President's judgment and the Brooklyn Eagle (Ind. Dem.) says:

President Coolidge has made a wise decision. He does not propose that the United States shall surrender any of its rights under the naval treaties but, as a matter of fact, he will permit nothing that will stimulate competitive naval building abroad.

The country ought to applaud this action. It is the kind of thing that gives for peace and diminishes suspicion. It is evidence of a fact made correspond with an altruistic representation. Whether Great Britain, under a Labor Government, would have shown herself equally generous for good-will is not clear. The firm insistence in London that the United States has no right to raise its gun-elevation is not surprising. But for the present, at least, the President has shown good judgment in deciding not to press this question to an issue."

Recall to the reader's mind the following paragraph from the Philadelphia Inquirer:

Now five of our most modern battleships have their guns so mounted that they are designed as to permit an angle fire up to thirty degrees. The range of the guns is de-

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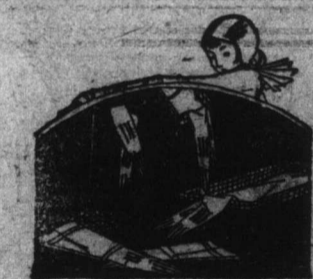
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erased from 20,000 yards to between 20,000 and 22,000 yards. A comparatively small expenditure for alterations to the gun-mounts and turrets on the battleships Florida, New York, Utah, Arkansas, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Oklahoma, Texas, Nevada, Mississippi, Idaho and New Mexico would increase the range of their big guns very nearly to the 30,000-yard maximum of the remainder of the battle fleet. That would give us eighteen first-class battleships with maximum ranges. British battleships are limited to a twenty-degree angle of fire, with the exception of five ships of the Glorious, Hood and Rodney class with the thirty-degree angle and a 30,000-yard range. These match five long-range battleships of the United States."—Literary Digest.

### A GOOD DEED.



WALT MAFON

"One day when I was bustling flat," a pilgrim said to me, "you handed me a stovepipe hat. I was an aristocrat, and I was tired and worn; I was a bleak, discouraged scout, at whom men gazed with scorn. But with that stovepipe on my head I seemed another guy; I left your home with sturdy tread, resolved to do or die; my pride, which had been trampled dead, would have another try. There's nothing like a stovepipe hat to brace the soul of man; he feels he's an aristocrat, and not an 'also-ran'; and to his fears he mutters, 'Scat!' and frames some useful plan. A man must live up to his lid, though he may be a wreck; he cannot through the alleys skid, with such a hat on deck, and so he makes an honest bid for better things, by heck. And if I've made a seemly pile, and dwell in Easy street, I owe it to that stately tile you gave me as a treat; it purged my spirit of its bile, and put me on my feet." I had forgotten all about the hat of which he told; but often, to the down and out, I've given kellys old, and porringers all heated with kraut, and doughnuts hot or cold. And it is good to meet a wight who talks to me like that, whose feet were headed for the right, whose spirit came to bat, when I equipped him, in his plight, with an old stovepipe hat!

A magazine writer says: "Every little boy's parents are anxious to see him grow up into a big, able bodied man." Yes; everybody but Jackie Coogan's.—Nashville Southern Lumberman.

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