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**THE** Chancellor of the Exchequer has disposed of his surplus of £6,500,000 by appropriating part for further naval development, part for promoting cotton growing in Uganda, and part for re-payment of the National Debt. He points out, however, that he is not anticipating Mr. Winston Churchill's naval policy. The First Lord of the Admiralty had stated quite clearly, said Mr. Lloyd George, that he based his estimates upon the assumption that the German navy law would remain unaltered. There was a bill before the Reichstag at that time providing for a very considerable addition to the provision made by the old German navy law. Since then the bill had become an Act of the German Parliament. It was now no longer a contingency, but a fact with which Great Britain was confronted. This new law provided additions to be spread over a period of six years of national programme, amounting in the aggregate to ten millions of pounds sterling (\$50,000,000.)

Mr. Lloyd George is right for once at any rate. It is not a contingency, it is a fact with which Great Britain is confronted. The Government of Canada is confronted with the same fact. If the battle of Canadian independence has to be fought anywhere within the next few years, it will be in the North Sea. A blind man could "see" such a fact as that without the aid of an optophone. If Canada is going to take any part in defending Canadian autonomy, it must be by contributing to the Imperial Navy, one and indivisible, which will have to do the real fighting. It is not a contingency which confronts us, it is a fact.

**THE** Automobiler was a timely discussion by the City Council on Wednesday, regarding the reckless driving of automobiles in Montreal. About one human life a day is the tribute now exacted by the reckless chauffeur who is allowed to dash through the crowded streets with an automobile, although evidently he is not fit to be trusted to wheel a barrow or a perambulator. There is no secret about the facts; the only mystery is why any class of men are allowed to set the law so impudently at defiance. A man can kill a human being in Montreal with less danger of legal punishment, than he can put out an ash barrel on the wrong day, or keep a dog without a license!

The discussion came up on a well-meant motion by Alderman Clement that:—"Seeing the many accidents which have been occurring with such frequency in the city within the past few weeks because some chauffeurs do not observe the civic by-laws and regulations; Be it resolved that the Chief of Police be instructed to take such measures as may be necessary to have the by-laws regarding automobiles properly enforced."

His Worship the Mayor supported the motion, because as he said, "it is a perfect scandal, the way in which things are going on now," and "the time has come when something energetic should be done."

To the outside observer, it seems pretty evident that the police department are not enforcing the by-laws, and it is certain that the present condition of affairs cannot be allowed to continue. If those having the control over civic affairs do not prove capable of dealing with the matter, the citizens themselves will be compelled to form an organisation to take the matter up, and force the hands of the authorities to do something to prevent a continuance of the scandal.

**QUANTITY AND QUALITY.** THERE is some anxiety in Germany over the decline of the birth rate, as shown by the official figures for 1911 in Prussia and Bavaria. While by no means so marked as in some other countries, it is sufficient to suggest that a turning point has been reached. In Prussia, the excess of births over deaths, which was 581,000 in 1910 was only 490,000 in 1911. In Bavaria, the excess which was 84,000 in 1910 was only 73,000 in 1911. The statisticians assume that for the whole German Empire the gain will be less than in any other year during the last two decades. We do not know how it may be in Germany, but in other countries the worst feature of the falling off in births seems to be in quality rather than in quantity. This is a serious matter for all classes in a democratic age, when the balance of political power is being rapidly transferred to the masses without regard to fitness or qualification. The systematic study of the new science, eugenics, has not commenced a day too soon. The wonder is that it has been so long neglected in the last few decades, which have developed so much systematic investigation of nearly all other departments of organic life.