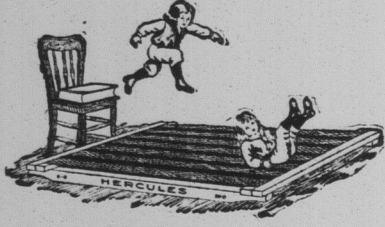


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The Dreadnought Rivalry

The speech of Mr. Winston Churchill on the naval defence of the Empire clearly points the way for Canada. He stated that only by cool study and by methodical preparation extended over a series of years could Britain raise the margin of naval power in Europe alone, while, he added "We have to protect Dominions and territories scattered over every continent and every ocean as well."

There, in a word, is Britain's problem. There, too, is the opportunity for the Dominions overseas to cease "sponging" the word is not a bit too strong, on the motherland for naval defence. It is the duty of the dominions to say to Britain, "We will undertake to guard the outlying portions of the Empire against small raiding squadrons and keep open the trade routes of the Empire if you will see to it that the shores of Britain are kept inviolate and the British battle fleet is maintained on a basis of superiority to that of any probable European combination."

If by the joint efforts of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the South African Union a compact, modern naval force were maintained in the Pacific and Indian oceans the people of Great Britain would be able to devote their entire attention to the safeguarding of the Atlan-

tic, the North sea, and the Mediterranean. The problem of British naval defence has been greatly complicated by the growing sea power of the Triple Alliance and the declining power of France. Ten years ago Germany's naval forces were relatively insignificant, and even now in pre-Dreadnought battleships she is hopelessly out classed. But pre-Dreadnought battleships count less every day, and in the building of Dreadnoughts the Triple Alliance powers, Germany, Austria and Italy, all are feverishly at work. It is estimated that by the winter of 1913 the Triple Alliance will be able to muster 21 Dreadnoughts against Britain's 35, which is a very narrow margin of supremacy. It would be an unfair statement of the case, however, to say that there is danger of Germany, Italy, and Austria all attacking Britain standing alone. Were such an attack made France would inevitably range herself on Britain's side. Unfortunately, however, France was spending her money on developing the submarine when the other powers began to build Dreadnoughts, and while she has several on the stocks she has as yet only six in commission. It is therefore true that in the matter of Dreadnoughts, were a general European war to break out two or three years hence, the superiority of France over Italy and Austria in the pre-Dreadnought type of battleship would

not be a decisive factor in a struggle depending on the survival of the fittest.

At the present time, and for at least a year, Britain's superiority in Dreadnoughts and pre-Dreadnoughts over Germany is so great that no German naval expert would favor facing the odds. The voice of the world is for the moment secure, and the British navy is the foundation of that security. Looking ahead, however, every thinking man must recognize that Britain will not always be able to play "bugger my neighbor" with Germany in the game of building warships. There are sixty five million Germans, and they are increasing at the rate of over a million a year. They do not emigrate, but remain at home to strengthen the power of Germany. The total emigration of Germans is probably less than 30,000 a year. Britain, with forty five million people, sends out every year about ten times the number of emigrants that Germany does. They are for the most part young, fit, and enterprising. Their departure drains the motherland of the most virtile element of the population, and results in an ever widening inferiority in the population and wealth producing capacity of Britain as compared with Germany.

How long under these conditions can Britain, unaided, hold the supremacy of the seas, which for her is a matter of national life or death? Has the time not come for the fifteen millions of white men in the outlying portions of the Empire to stand behind the motherland?

Bride's Shotgun Ends Raucous Charivari.

Fairmont, W. Va., August 1.- After keeping her marriage to Edward Swisher a secret for a year, Mrs. Cora Swisher, a prominent young woman of Millersville near here, decided to announce yesterday.

As the indirect result of the announcement Mrs. Swisher was held in \$500 bail for court last evening for shooting and maiming Lonnie Richards, one of a crowd of young men who organized a calthumpian band and proceeded to the Swisher homestead to give the newly

married pair a charivari.

According to Richard's version, he was doing his best with an improvised horse fiddle when Mrs. Swisher appeared at a window with a double barreled shotgun and fired on the crowd. The first shot took effect on Richard's side. Physicians say he will be crippled for life.

Mrs. Swisher denies that she fired on the crowd. She says Richard and another man made an effort to get into the house and that she fired on them to keep them from entering her home. The bride gave bond for her appearance before the Grand Jury. The case will be bitterly fought, as all parties to it are prominent. Mrs. Swisher declared to night that she feared for her life when she discharged the gun.

A Town Without Taxes.

It was recently reported from Germany that there was a little town within the Empire in which there were no taxes. The town possessed benefactions the revenues from which just enabled it to pay its way without the intervention of the tax-gatherer. France never likes to be outdone by anything German, as a Paris newspaper has set itself the task of finding a parallel. Something more than a parallel has been discovered, for not only are there no taxes, but the timbers on the communal lands are sufficient to grant each person a small annuity. This happy land is Montmarcon, in the Midi. There are seven electors in the hamlet, so to avoid anything like rivalry the seven return themselves to the local council. Cutting down the trees and selling them is sufficient to provide a livelihood for these simple people, whose tastes are so modest that they may be termed by uncivilized.

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