

cut off, she could be surrounded like a beleaguered city and starved out in a month. We have recently heard a great deal in this House and out of it about the immense aggregate tonnage of Britain's warships. This is a very plausible argument, but it is just as deceptive and misleading as it is plausible, and it is unworthy of a great man and a clear thinker. We all know that the smaller ships are so far out-classed by Dreadnoughts that in a battle on the ocean they could not get near to a Dreadnought or injure it in any way. Therefore, in future nothing but the tonnage of Dreadnoughts and super-Dreadnoughts will count. I often think that Canadians who live hundreds or it may be thousands of miles away from the ocean, have a small idea of what a fearful death-dealing monster a Dreadnought really is. We can only convey this idea to them by comparison and description. We cannot take them to see one. Some idea can be formed when I say that a Dreadnought has a displacement of 22,000 tons, whereas the little ship in which Jacques Cartier first crossed the ocean and landed in Canada had a displacement of only 60 tons. A Dreadnought is simply a death-dealing monster covered with nickel steel eleven inches thick and armed with ten 12-inch guns, any one of which, if discharged at close range, would send a ball through a solid mass of wrought iron three feet thick. It requires 200 pounds of cordite for a single charge and it throws a shell weighing 750 pounds; so that if the ten guns were discharged all at once, they would hurl forth nearly four tons of metal bursting shells which would be deadly at six miles. Now, Germany will have a great many of these Dreadnoughts by 1912 or 1913. We have heard so many different estimates here, and they are so confusing that I scarcely know how many she will have; but from what I can gather, she will have from 17 to 20 of these marine monsters in 1912 or 1913. Britain will have as many or a few more; but she cannot, like Germany, put all her Dreadnoughts in the North Sea at the same time, because she has many outlying points to guard, in the Mediterranean and elsewhere; and she will have to guard Quebec too. More, owing to her insular position, she must in every case guard the line of her food supply, and protect it perfectly. It is as important to guard that as it is to meet the German fleet in the North Sea. We would still have an adequate idea of the preparations which are being made to dismember the British empire if we had not some idea of the invincible land army with which Germany is now guarding the Dreadnoughts which she is building. A writer for McClure's magazine for November last, gave a very good description of that. He

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said that Germany could on 12 hours notice hurl 400,000 men, fully armed and equipped, and 800 guns upon either her eastern or western border; that in two days she could increase that number to a million, in two weeks to two millions, and finally to four millions, the greatest and best army on this earth. Germany has in her war office ready for use, plans for the invasion of every country in Europe. She has an intelligence system that seems to make known to her what is going on in every part of the world. She has accurate maps of every country on earth, and every officer and man in that vast army has secret mobilization orders that will enable him, when notified by telegram or telephone, to take his place immediately in the great German fighting machine. The railroads of Germany are mostly owned by the state, and are part of her military machine. She has armoured trains ready. She has bridge-building materials lying at suitable places, and at the great fortress of Spandau, near Berlin, this writer says, she has many hundreds of sacks of gold, a part of the French war indemnity, which is carefully guarded, and which forms the nucleus of a war fund. I might also call your attention to the fact that Germany has a magnificent air fleet capable of thundering destruction from the skies. At Ehrenbreitstein not long since that air fleet had military manoeuvres and a sham battle that lasted three hours. So that in every direction Germany is preparing for the conflict; even her air ships are ready for action; and I think we know what all these preparations are for. Germany has an immense population, rapidly increasing, of more than 60,000,000 people, cooped up in a little territory of 208,000 square miles, about four-fifths the size of our new province of Alberta. Her farmers are thoroughly protected, and therefore they are prosperous and numerous; and by means of her technical schools and the wonderful industry of her population she has become one of the leading manufacturing countries in the world. Germany wants more room and new markets, and there can be no doubt that is the origin of the trouble. This is no false alarm, because we find the *Krenz Zeitung*, a leading German paper recently said that for England to think that Germany was not building her Dreadnoughts for the purpose of opposing Britain, was simply to adopt the policy of the ostrich which sticks its head into the sand and then thinks it is safe.

During this debate, we have had the names of eminent statesmen quoted to us time and again—men who are leaders in both the great political parties in the old land, men who have the means of knowing and who do know, men whose word and wisdom are above suspicion—and