

The Colonist.

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BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

There is no need for any one to jump at the conclusion that Sir Edward Grey will make a sensational statement on the Morocco question on Monday. There is usually so much exaggeration in press reports coming via New York, when the British government is concerned, that it is never well to anticipate declarations which may be made by a British minister. It is worth while remembering that practically every forecast of political events in the United Kingdom, which the Associated Press has published under London dates for several years past, has been hopelessly wrong. We find the following item going the rounds of the press:

Mr. Arthur Ponsonby, M.P., who was principal private secretary to the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman when prime minister, speaking at the New Year club last night on "The Delicacy of Anglo-German Relations," said: "Only today I was assured and I believe the statement is true that last September we were on the very verge of war. That the North Sea fleet was cleared for action and the torpedo-boats were out in expectation of an attack from the German torpedo-boats."

We give this for what it is worth, and that may be very little indeed. It is certainly a very remarkable thing if the North Sea fleet was cleared for action last September in anticipation of an attack from Germany, and the fact never leaked out until a week ago.

We are not without the hope that when Sir Edward Grey makes his statement in the House of Commons he will present the case in such a light that the world will realize how narrow is the margin at all times between peace and war. When once the people understand this, there will be fewer exhibitions of national hysteria.

CANADIAN SELF-RESPECT

While awaiting with deep interest and some concern the announcement of the naval policy of the Dominion government and the verdict of the Canadian people thereon, it seems desirable that a campaign of education should be begun, not in favor of any particular programme, but in regard to the obligations of Canadians, and how they can best maintain their self-respect as individuals and as a nation. For a good many years we have been endeavoring to persuade ourselves and others that we are really a great people. We have been telling the rest of mankind how rich we are both now and in future possibilities. However much we may have disagreed with Sir Wilfrid Laurier in other things, we have all endorsed his sentiment that "The Twentieth Century is Canada's."

We have cut loose from our Mother's apron strings, and we submit that we ought to be ashamed to get behind her petticoats for protection. We have no fear that Mr. Borden will not determine upon a programme that will measure up to the share of Canada's responsibility in the naval defence of the Empire. What we aim to do, if we can, is to stimulate Canadian self-respect so that the people will rally to the support of such a programme. In doing so we are not going to becloud the situation with high-sounding words. For example, we are not going to talk about imperialism or things like that, which every one speaks of and no one pretends to understand. We are not going to talk about loyalty to the crown or to the flag, for there may be differences of opinion as to just what loyalty implies. We are going to put the matter upon the plainest and simplest foundation. We have a great country; we are a forceful and resourceful people; we stand second per capita among the nations of the world in respect to commerce; we have frontiers on two oceans; we have poverty worth talking of in a national sense; whether or not we are the richest people in the world, we undoubtedly spend more upon ourselves than any other people. This being the case, we ought to be ready, for very shame's sake if for no higher motive, to play our part in the defence of our own country and of the Empire to which we belong.

Whatever those, best able to decide, determine that Canada ought to do, let the Canadian people support. We would like to beget a realising sense of our duty in this respect, not to the Mother Country nor to the Empire, but to ourselves as a people who have been making such claims, we will not say extravagant claims, for ourselves. The first duty of any people is to themselves, and in the very forefront of that duty is the maintenance of their national self-respect.

THE CAMPAIGN IN TRIPOLI

Italy must win, says a contemporary speaking of the war in Tripoli. The

reason for the "must" is that if Italy should be defeated there would be a conflagration of Arab blood-lust, which might spread to the Sudan, to Egypt and to the very interior of Africa. We do not follow the argument, for such a consummation is very much more likely to arise if Italy does win, and Islam becomes licensed at the wanton interference with the territories of the Sultan. But is any one quite sure that there is any "must" in the case. The people of Christendom have a fashion of laying the flattering unction to their souls that they are to inherit the earth and that other people are only in the possession of anything by sufferance. When Italy invaded Tripoli, to which country she had not the shadow of a right, she proclaimed all persons rebels, who saw fit to resist her authority. "Putting down the insurrection" is the term by which Italian newspaper writers describe the prosecution of a war of conquest, or that is at least hoped to prove a war of conquest.

It will have been observed that the telegrams have often referred to the Senusi, who it is said may advance against the Italians. The Senusi, the correct name of which is Sidi Mohammed Ven Ali es-Senusi, is not a tribe, but a great fraternity. It was founded by Mohammed el Senusi, who left Algeria for the desert in 1830. Seven years later he began to establish convents for the teaching of the most austere form of Islamism. The fraternity has extended far and wide, and is on the ascendant all over Northern and Central Africa. The organization is very powerful, and has an abundance of arms and ammunition. It has proved a powerful opponent to France, and if it puts forth all its strength may prove an insuperable object to the designs of Italy.

BUSINESS IN THE U. S.

Mr. Henry Clews, while admitting that the stock market in the United States is, technically, satisfactory, says that the actual business outlook is not so because of the prospect of "some rather bitter and aggressive campaigning on the tariff and anti-trust questions." Business embarrassments in the United States are accentuated by a condition of things in that country, which is nearly if not quite unique. The great industrial interests and the great financial interests are under the same control, which gives the money-power a strength such as it possesses nowhere else. The industrial stocks are bought and sold freely upon the market, and as most of the transactions are on borrowed money for which stocks are put up as collateral, a few men are in a position to loosen or tighten the purse-strings of the country whenever they see fit. This concentration of power is employed primarily for the benefit of the great capitalists and secondarily for the welfare of the country. It is not necessary to suppose that such men as Mr. Morgan, Mr. Rockefeller and their associates are unpatriotic or disposed to be tyrannical. They simply are inspired by the timidity, which affects all persons who are entrusted with the custody of large sums of money, their own or some one else's. They are on the lookout constantly for financial storms, and if they see signs of one anywhere on the horizon they hasten to shorten sail. Money becomes tight, not because there is less money in the country, but because those who control the money fear to let it out because of possible depreciation of collaterals and the difficulty that may be experienced in getting the loans repaid. The men who dominate Wall street, really dominate the United States, and they are attempting to do what no one need hope to accomplish successfully, that is to do the thinking for about one hundred millions of people, the very great majority of whom do not trust them at all.

THE SUBMARINE.

The British government is building submarines as large as the largest destroyers, and Russia has one on the stocks which will have a tonnage of 5,400 tons. Both the British and German submarines of the latest pattern are armed with guns for use when the vessel is cruising on the surface, and there is a growing opinion in naval circles that before long battleships will be submerged as much as possible. In the long battle between guns and armor, the former has now much the best of it; apparently the limit has been reached in the latter. It is impossible to go on indefinitely putting steel on the sides of a ship. The point must sooner or later be reached when buoyancy will be impossible, except by sacrificing everything to else. Therefore naval designers contemplate the possibility of using the water for protection, as far as possible. It has been proposed to protect ships by providing them with turtle-backs that will rise from the water's edge, and it is claimed that these would deflect any shell fired from the water-level. There will be nothing visible from the outside except this turtle-back. The engines will be built for internal consumption and therefore no smoke-stacks will be needed. There movement will be directed from a periscope. Surely, when this

stage has been reached much of the pomp and grandeur of naval warfare will have ceased. Think of hundreds of men beneath the water going out to fight an all but invisible foe.

CARNegie's BEQUESTIONS

It is the custom of newspaper para-graphists, when they have nothing better to do, to list at Mr. Andrew Carnegie the gentleman who said it would be a disgrace to die rich. Mr. Carnegie will have to die soon if he is to escape this disgrace, for his income seems un-likely, but he has made a record in gifts which so far as history tells, is unsurpassed by anything except the public donations of the Emperor Augustus. Here is an authentic list of the bequestions of the great ironmaster:

Table listing Carnegie's bequestions: Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, 16,000,000; Carnegie Technical School, Pittsburg, 7,500,000; Endowment for Chicago Professor, 21,500,000; Carnegie Institution, Washington, 22,000,000; Scotch Universities, 10,000,000; United States Hero Fund, 5,000,000; Birmingham Hero Fund, 1,250,000; French Hero Fund, 1,000,000; German Hero Fund, 1,250,000; Italian Hero Fund, 1,000,000; Steel Company Employees, 5,000,000; Determining Endowments, 4,250,000; Hague Peace Temple, 1,750,000; Peace Fund, 10,000,000; Allied Engineers' Societies, 1,500,000; Bureau of American Republics, 250,000; Gift to the United States, small, 250,000; Russia, 250,000; Miscellaneous gifts in United States, 50,000,000; Miscellaneous gifts in Europe, 2,500,000; Approximate total, 225,450,000.

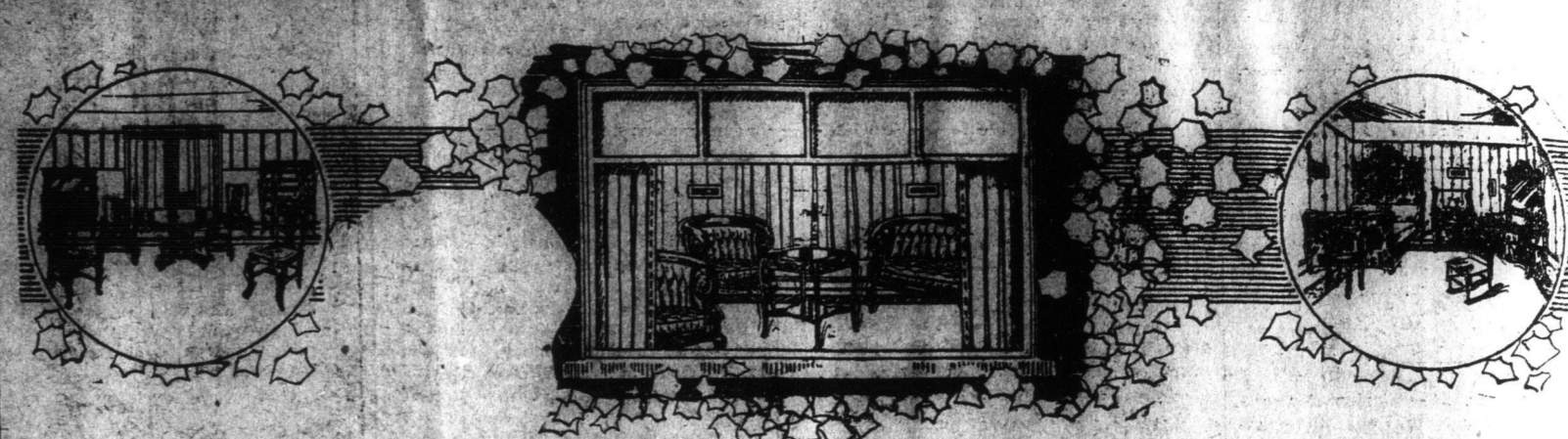
However, we may be disposed to question the desirability of an economic system which makes possible the accumulation of such enormous wealth in the hands of one individual, and however much there may be differences of opinion as to the judgment shown in some of the gifts, it must be conceded that the man who has more than two hundred millions to his credit in donations of a public character has won for himself a place in the esteem and in the memory of his fellow-men.

The political status of the Senate at present is: Liberals, 64; Conservatives, 21; that is assuming senators have any politics.

A correspondent wants the Dominion Government to inaugurate an imperial news service. We fear there are insuperable difficulties in the way. A news service paid for by the public ought to be given to the public, and to defray the expense of bringing British news to the Atlantic coast and leaving the papers throughout the Dominion to get it as best they can, would not be satisfactory. We will only get a satisfactory British news service when the common sense suggestion of Sir Stamford Fleming is acted upon. Sir Stamford's contention was that under a system of government telegraphy it ought to cost no more to send a telegram 10,000 miles than to send one 10 miles. Just as it costs no more to send a letter, another objection to a news service maintained by a government is that it would almost certainly be partisan.

Our attention has been called to a paragraph in a recent issue of Collier's referring to the King's visit to India. This is one of the objectionable sentences: "One of the disadvantages of being Emperor of India is that the Emperor must be willing any minute to dress himself up like a circus horse and make a show." We do not suppose for a moment that this was meant to be disrespectful; it doubtless was intended to be funny, which it was not, but when a man tries to be funny through four columns every week he is likely to miss the bull's-eye pretty often. Collier's probably only intended to draw attention to the interesting fact that the King has taken the crown jewels to India, and that they will play their part in a ceremony that will be doubtless very gorgeous. That it did so in a very clumsy way and with very bad taste must be admitted, but we fancy the Monarchy will survive.

It appears that, notwithstanding the rapid diminution of some of the tribes, the Indian population of Canada is not decreasing. We suggest that there is a reason for this that might be considered in connection with the Indian policy of the Dominion government. It seems to be an established fact that the effect of the first contact between the Indians and the white people is an increase of the death rate among the former, but that after the Indians become accustomed to the ways of civilization they are less susceptible to the evils which carry off so many of them in the earlier stages. It may be open to question if the maintenance of the reservation system is desirable, in cases where it might be departed from. Our Indian population very readily adapts itself to the changed conditions resulting from the settlement of the country, and it is worth considering if it might not be well, wherever practicable, to enfranchise the Indians, sell their reservations and start them out upon individual careers. An Indian reservation in a country at all thickly populated seems to us to be of great potential disadvantage to the health and morals of its occupants.



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