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REGINA. **T**HINGS move rapidly in the Canadian West. Regina sprang up in a very few years from an insignificant prairie settlement suffering under the name of Pile o' Bones to the dimensions and status of a prosperous progressive important and beautiful city. In half an hour, half of it was blown into a pile of ruins. Within a week its restoration has advanced so far that two or three weeks more promise to see Regina as flourishing as ever. Cyclones, unlike earthquakes seldom strike twice in the same spot and the faith shown by the citizens in the future of their city has everything to justify it.

RUSSIA'S NAVY. **T**HE Russian Douma, has voted \$645,000,000 to be expended on the navy in five years. This is naval expansion with a vengeance and a New York paper says that this will make the Russian Navy rank next to the British Navy in importance. It might, if all the money were spent on ship-building and armament, but this would be decidedly against all the Russian traditions. It will be astonishing though if it does not lead to a further extension of the German naval programme. The German Navy Act of 1908 provided for the expenditure of \$1,035,000,000 in ten years. The matter is of great importance to the British Empire, because Great Britain is committed to the policy of building battleships faster than Germany.

FATAL ACCIDENTS **T**HIS has been a bad week for fatal accidents in England, the United States and Canada. Sixty-nine miners have been killed by a colliery explosion in Yorkshire, forty persons killed by a railway collision at Corning, N.Y., and three killed by a railway accident at Grand Lake on the Intercolonial. The immediate causes are in some doubt, but in the matter of the railway accidents, it is not unlikely that the weather had something to do with the trouble as it often does on this continent. Both rails and men are affected by extremes of temperature. The most elaborate systems of operating form a chain which is no stronger than its weakest link and often the weakest link is a man who fails in some essential particular. In devising systems of railway operation sufficient allowance does not seem to be made

for this element of uncertainty and risk. There is a financial side to the subject which one would think sufficient to make railway men do a lot of thinking regarding the possibility of minimising at least the big "accidents." The smash on the Ligonier Valley Railroad in Pennsylvania, which killed twenty-seven people and injured thirty more will it is estimated cost the company \$1,000,000.

IMPERIAL DEFENCES.

PREMIER BORDEN naturally has not yet announced the exact nature of Canada's contribution to the naval defence of the Empire, but in his speech before the Royal Colonial Institute he laid down the most essential general principles upon which that contribution will be based. He declared the Canadian ideal to be "one King, one Flag, one Empire, and one Navy." This is thoroughly in line with the policy advocated by THE CHRONICLE for years. No less so is the Premier's demand that Canada should have a voice in the councils of the Empire. As Mr. Borden expressed it:

"To vindicate the flag and maintain the Empire's existence there are two considerations before us: the first touches the possible immediate gravity of existing conditions: the other touches the more difficult and more complex question of permanent co-operation in the Empire's defence upon the high seas.

"The second of these considerations raises in concrete form the question of the future constitution and organization of our Empire.

"It is sufficient for the moment to emphasize our view that any great dominion undertaking to share upon a permanent basis in the sea defence of the Empire must have some voice in the policy which shapes the issues of war or peace. Canada does not propose to be merely an adjunct, even to the British Empire; she faces the future to-day with a proud spirit, conscious of her problems, but equally conscious of her ability to solve them."

The self-governing Dominions are not more eager to have a voice in the Councils of the Empire than the people of the United Kingdom are for them to be granted this privilege and for them to assume this responsibility. This is more than a colonial question, more even than an Imperial question. It is an International question, for a United British Empire, united for defence and united for the maintenance of international law and justice is the greatest guarantee likely to be seen for the peace of the world.