

**BIGGEST JUNK SHOP PROPOSED FOR THE NAVY**

Experts Consider Storing Metal from Scrapped Ships for a Rise in Prices— Might Require \$75,000,000.

Washington, April 6.—Congress will be called upon to provide capital for the largest junk dealing business in the world if one of the plans receiving seri-

ous consideration from American naval experts for scrapping the battleships doomed by the Naval Treaty is adopted. A fund estimated as high as \$75,000,000 may be needed to carry out a scrapping plan which technical experts say would eventually prove to be the most economical way of disposing of these ships, particularly the old ones. This proposal provides that the government itself shall undertake the gigantic task of breaking up the seventeen old battleships slated for destruction, and new ones as well, at least those building in navy yards.

The advantages of this plan, the experts say, are that it will provide employment for some of the skilled and many of the unskilled workmen recently furloughed from the yards, and that it will be possible for the government to carry out the scrapping in accordance with the treaty terms but to store the scrap metal, steel and brass, until the present price depression is over.

The majority of naval officers, however, believe that the most expedient method of disposing of the problem will be to offer all the doomed ships to the highest bidders and let private concerns undertake cutting them up. This, they urge, would provide employment for just as many men, would stimulate private enterprise and help to develop what the country is said to need badly, shipbreaking experts. At present this industry is in its swaddling clothes. No one in America has completed the job of scrapping a battleship, though other countries, with Germany and England in the lead, have made rapid strides in developing this commercially since the war.

This probably will receive the support of the Board of Naval Technical Experts that is preparing a report to be submitted shortly to Secretary Denby, along with the plan described above, and one or two other schemes as alternatives.

The report will set forth, it is understood, that an obvious solution of the whole difficulty, with the price of scrap metal at rock bottom and wages high, would be to tow all of the discarded ships out to sea and sink them.

The principal objection raised to this is the economic waste, and the failure to provide employment for idle workmen. Another proposal to be brought to the front by commercial interests will be to permit certain well established firms, or shipbuilders and others, to take over some of the old ships and scrap them on shares, making a fifty-fifty division of whatever profits accrue.

The battle cruisers and battleships still under construction offer a different problem, and various solutions are being considered by the board. One is cutting up of these ships on the ways in navy yards by the yard forces. Another is to sell them and have them cut up by labor supplied by the purchaser.

The Naval Board, which is headed by Rear Admiral David W. Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair, was named by the Secretary to "formulate instructions to carry out the scrapping rules of the conference on limitation of armaments." Suggestions from every quarter were solicited by the board and it has been flooded with suggestions and plans. The board is to meet tomorrow to formulate its final report to the secretary.

In its deliberations the Board has been confronted at all times with the practical certainty that no methods to be decided upon with the exception of that by which the Government finances and does the work, takes the risk and holds the scrap for a rising market, will bring any money into the treasury. If all the doomed ships are cut up and dumped on the market, it is said prices will fall so that they probably not pay for the labor employed in the work.

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Hood's Sarsaparilla purifies and vitalizes the blood and enables it to resist germs of grip, influenza, fevers and other ailments. It has stood the test of three generations, giving entire satisfaction.

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**PALPITATION**—"My wife was troubled with palpitation of the heart and dizziness, but after using one bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla these troubles at once disappeared. We always keep Hood's in the family medicine chest, and I cannot say too much in favor of it." A. Molayre, 73 Palace St., Brantford, Ont.

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more than 800,000 displacement tons of ships, built or building. This will represent something like 800,000 tons of steel and 4,000 tons of brass scrap, with a market value of millions of dollars.

Among the many suggestions which the board has received was one made by Rear Admiral Josiah McKean, commandant at Mare Island, who proposed that twelve of the old battleships be used to extend the breakwater at San Pedro. His proposal was that the boats be completely stripped and material salvaged, and then that they be taken out and sunk, providing a quiet anchorage for the Pacific Fleet in Los Angeles Harbor, which at present is lacking.

**LABOR TROUBLES ON TEA PLANTATIONS.**

The high wages paid to workers on the tea plantations in India and Ceylon during the war, and the present scarcity of the leaf, have led to a constantly increasing price for good tea. It is reported that the cost of producing tea, which has advanced between 12 and 16 cents a pound during the last eighteen months, will soon make necessary a general increase in retail prices.

**FROM CALIFORNIA FOR BURIAL.**

The body of Arthur B. Dean, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dean, 82 Wall street, who was killed in an automobile accident at Long Beach (Cal.), is being brought home for burial and will arrive in the city this evening. Full particulars of how the unfortunate young man met his death have not yet been received by the bereaved family but the circumstances surrounding the sad occurrence will be learned from Ralph Dean, who is accompanying the body of

his brother to St. John. The funeral arrangements will be made following the arrival of the body.

**AMATEURS OF ST. DAVID'S CHURCH WIN NEW LAURELS**

"Comrades," an appealing comedy drama, was splendidly staged in the auditorium of Knox church last night by the members of the amateur dramatic society of St. David's church. The performers, who already have a reputation as capable actors, achieved a brilliant success. An audience of about 600 packed the hall and, by unstinted applause, showed plainly its appreciation of the rich humor, which was cleverly handled, and of the sustained interest of the plot which works up to a fine climax. In pathetic and dramatic moments, as well as in the amusing episodes, the actors were equally successful.

Those who took part were as follows: Royal Manning, the hero, Murray Lawson; May, his wife, Miss Phyllis MacGowan; Bessie Bradley, May's friend, Miss M. Alberta Nelson; Marcus Graves, Bessie's fiancé, Kenneth R. Nelson; Simon Stone, Jack-of-all-trades, Ronald W. Shaw; Nancy Nipper, the housekeeper, Miss Kathleen M. Shaw, and Matt Winsor, the tramp, Alan N. MacGowan. The accompanists were Mrs. J. M. Barnes, Miss Marion Cruikshank and Miss Myrtle J. Fox. Between the acts pleasing specialties were given. Miss Estelle Fox sang a solo and Clinton Regan contributed some Scottish wit and humor.

Kenneth Stirling was the business manager and stage helpers were Miss Lillian Berwick and Miss Annie Parks.



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**LOCAL NEWS**

Men's odd vest coats \$1 to \$1.39, at Bassen's, 14 Charlotte street.

Do your Easter shopping at Babb's—you get more for your money. Babb's Dept. Store, 104-106 King Street, West.

Grand musical concert entitled "Cross and Crown" Friday night 8 o'clock in vestry of the Ludlow church. This is a big feature for the West End people; come and enjoy yourselves. Admission 20 cents.

Our store is always busy; come and help to make it busier, at Bassen's, 14 Charlotte street.

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**TONIGHT**  
Castle Hall, Union street, Pythian Knights dance. Studio orchestra and refreshments.

**HYDRO ADDRESS FRIDAY**  
Address on hydro-electric development will be delivered in St. Patrick's Hall, West, Friday night, beginning at 8.15, by Edward Owens, C. E.

Just received, a nice line of Easter Neckties from 50 cents to \$1.50. Babb's Dept. Store, 104-106 King Street, West.

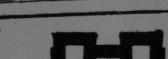
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**WILL CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW SITE**  
The progress of the negotiations for a site for a large provincial Protestant



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orphanage was reported on at the meeting of the board of directors of the Protestant Orphanage held yesterday afternoon in the British street institution with the president, D. C. Clark, in the chair. The building committee told of the delegation which went to city hall asking for a grant of land on the Manawagonish road and reported that no definite reply to the request had yet been received. The committee was continued and authorized to proceed with the negotiations. Reports were also given of the bills now before the provincial legislature to amend the constitution of the orphanage and to change the name from the St. John to the New Brunswick Protestant Orphan Home. Reports of the management of the present two institutions in British street and West St. John were very satisfactory. The homes were said to be practically full with sixty-five children in West St. John and forty-three in the British street home. A clean bill of health for both homes was reported.

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