

The German scare had gone too far even for some of its promoters; and Lord Northcliffe, writing from Berlin to the *Daily Mail* (May 21) quoted passages from the German papers showing that it was causing apprehension, and urged the British press and people to study "the real German danger," and to refrain from encouraging a growing belief that England was inhabited by 'nervous degenerates'" (a).

It was while foolish excitement of that sort pervaded England that New Zealand responded with the offer of a Dreadnought, and that the Canadian House of Commons, more merely retaining its equilibrium, adopted (29 March) the resolution quoted in Vol. 1 of these Papers at page 271. By that time indeed, the "scare" had commenced its disappearance in England—a scare which, as Mr. Monk said (12 January 1910):

"lasted nearly a month and then blew over" (b).

It subsided, and all efforts to rouse it again have completely failed. Agitation is now directed rather against the alleged insufficiency of the army, and, as will shortly appear, the Unionist party, if not admittedly satisfied with the government's naval programme, has greatly modified its complaints and criticisms.

Proof of this assertion may be found in the character of the discussion prior to the general elections of January 1910, for although the navy was, undoubtedly, frequently referred to

"the controversy centred round the future of the House of Lords, the merits of the budget and tariff reform" (c).

Another general election was held in December of the same year:

"The contest, however, was probably not much affected by any issues but the veto, tariff-reform and home rule. Mr. Blatchford (d), indeed, repeated his warnings of a year before and insisted that the 'German menace' was the greatest issue of all. But little was heard of it, or of other familiar questions, though the organization connected with the trade in intoxicants and the Land Union respectively did their best against the government, by advertisement or otherwise" (e).

After those general elections, occasional allusions only were made to the departed naval scare.

(a) Ann. Reg., 1909, p. 117.

(b) Hans., p. 1770.

(c) Ann. Reg. 1910, p. 2.

(d) A clever journalist.

(e) Ann. Reg. 1910, p. 249.