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The Case of the German Soldier. The position of the German soldier in relation to his superior officer is certainly not one to be envied. From a decision handed down in a case lately tried at Dessau it appears that under no circumstances does a soldier of the Kaiser possess the right of self-defence against an attack by a superior officer. If an officer, in a drunken revel, pleads to wound or kill a private soldier it is the duty of the latter to submit without striking a blow in self-defence. The facts of the case alluded to above are given as follows: Sergeant Heine, who was drunk, entered a public dancing saloon and insulted two girls, who were in the company of two soldiers, named Guenther and Voight. The girls appealed to their companions for protection, and the soldiers protested to Heine, who drew his sword. He made a drunken lunge with the weapon and slightly wounded one of the girls. A violent scuffle ensued, in which Heine was disarmed and felled to the floor. Guenther and Voight were arrested for striking their superior officer. In the course of the trial the prisoners' counsel contended that they had acted in self-defence. He declared that it was permissible for soldiers to defend honor and life against a superior. 'Nothing of the sort,' responded the prosecuting counsel. 'Self-defence is a conception that does not exist in the relations between soldiers and their superiors.' Counsel for the defence asked: 'Must a soldier allow himself to be unresistingly slaughtered by a superior officer?' The prosecutor replied, 'Yes.' The court, however, partially dissented from this view of the case of a soldier whose life was endangered, explaining that the soldier might parry, although he must not strike a counter blow. The prisoners were each sentenced to five years' hard labor, in addition to which they were dismissed from the army and deprived of their civil rights. 'Heine was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for assault. A demand that he be degraded to the ranks was refused.

Anti-Government Demonstration in St. Petersburg. The aims and hopes of the Russian students and others who united in a great demonstration in St. Petersburg on Sunday, Dec. 11, may be worthy of respect but it must appear that as to time and method their demonstration was ill-considered and will prove worse than fruitless in respect to immediate results. A St. Petersburg despatch describes as follows what took place in the Nevsky Prospect:

"Towards 1 o'clock the workmen and students seemed to swarm towards the corner of the Hotel Europe, opposite the Kazan Cathedral. The police tried in vain to keep back the human tide. Then, when there was not a single mounted policeman in sight, from the heart of the thickly wedged crowd a blood-red flag suddenly shot up. It was the signal. Other flags appeared in other parts of the crowd, waving frantically overhead, and they were greeted with a hoarse roar, "Down with autocracy!" The students surged into the street singing the "Marseillaise." Dismounted police made a single attempt to force their way into the crowd to wrest the flags from the demonstrators but the students and workmen, armed with sticks, stood close and beat back their assailants. Then like a flash from behind the cathedral came wheeling a squadron of gendarmes. The doors of adjoining courts were thrown back and battalions of police came out. A double squadron charged the flank of the demonstrators with drawn sabres. Five other squadrons circled the mob, cutting through the fringe of spectators. The main wedge of the demonstrators stood fast only a moment or two. There was a sharp rattle of cudgels and sabres, though the wounds showed the police struck principally with the flat of their sabres. The women were especially fierce in their resistance. Many were struck and trampled and blood streamed down their faces. The police urged their horses fiercely into the crowd, driving before them those who resisted. The intense excitement lasted about ten minutes, after which mounted officers kept the crowd moving. Considering the sharp fight the rioters had put up, the police acted humanely with the crowd. There were probably a hundred broken heads, and several were severely wounded, though none fatally, so far as is ascertainable. So far there have been over 100 arrests. The greatest distress is expressed by conservative Liberals over the day's events, all declaring that just when the fate of the Zemstvo programme was in the balance such a fruitless outbreak will be sure to prejudice every observer and put the strongest weapon in the hand of the bureaucratic reactionaries.

The British and Foreign Navies. In an official memorandum recently issued, dealing with the future distribution and mobilization of the British fleet, Lord Selborne, First Lord of the Admiralty, makes some

interesting remarks on the development of foreign navies throughout the world, constituting, in Lord Selborne's view a new and definite stage of naval affairs in the Western hemisphere. He says:—"The United States is forming a navy, the power and size of which will be limited only by the amount of money the American people choose to spend on it. In the eastern hemisphere a smaller but modern navy, that of Japan, has been put to the test of war and not found wanting. The Russian navy has been greatly increased, and, with the exception of the Black Sea fleet, has been wholly transferred or is in course of being transferred to the Pacific. The navies of Italy and Austria have maintained their positions in the Mediterranean, but the expenditure thereon has not been increased, as in the case of other powers. The French navy stands, as always, in the forefront, and a new German navy has come into existence. It is a navy of the most efficient type and so fortunately circumstanced that it is able to concentrate almost the whole of its fleet at home ports." Dwelling on the improvement of the British fleet, Lord Selborne remarks that all the old battle-ships have been replaced by modern ships, and that Great Britain will have within the year 26 modern cruisers, built within four years, of great speed, with armaments as powerful as that of battleships and altogether a great advance on anything which has preceded them. Lord Selborne then details the fleet changes. The home fleet henceforth will be called the Channel fleet, with headquarters at home. It will consist of twelve battleships and a sufficient number of cruisers. The present Channel fleet will be renamed the Atlantic fleet, have its permanent base at Gibraltar and consist of eight battleships and a sufficient number of cruisers. Affiliated to the channel and Atlantic fleets will be cruiser squadrons, each of six armored cruisers commanded by Rear Admirals. The south Atlantic squadron under the new arrangement will remain as now constituted. The Mediterranean fleet will consist of eight battleships and attendant cruiser, with its base at the Island of Malta. Dealing with the cruisers in the extra-European waters, Lord Selborne says it has been decided to withdraw the less effective ships of the North American and West Indies station and to add to the station ships of a new particular service squadron, which the Admiralty has decided to constitute. Naval cadets and boys in training will hereafter be transferred from the training ships to this particular service squadron, which will be composed of six or eight modern fighting ships, which will be combined into one squadron for training, under the Commander-in-Chief of the North American station. The naval manoeuvres of 1905 and 1906, which will have for their object the testing of the new scheme, the object of which is that "on a declaration of war the fighting efficiency of the fleet shall be complete and instantaneous."

The Colonies and Imperial Defence. The duty of the colonies to bear a share in the expense attending the naval defences of the Empire is a subject which will naturally demand consideration more and more as the colonies grow in strength and importance. The

other day in introducing a deputation to Premier Balfour in reference to Imperial naval defence, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach is reported as saying that the common burden of 10,000,000 people in the colonies was born by 40,000,000 tax-payers in the United Kingdom. He thought the statements of pride and affection in the colonies would induce them to consider proposals, and commented on the fact that Canada did not contribute one penny. Mr. Balfour in reply spoke of the colonies as sustaining the relation of children to the parent state. In their helpless years the mother country rightly took upon itself the whole burden of defence. Now the children were gradually growing up, and as they grow will assist the parents in carrying a share of the common burden. The process however must be gradual. The colonies could not be pressed in this matter, but as they grew, it might be expected that they would more and more apprehend the importance of the scheme of Empire and bear more and more of the Empire's burdens. The British Premier's way of putting the matter will probably be recognized by colonists, generally, as fair and moderate. The feeling prevalent among British tax-payers that the larger colonies should bear a part in the common defences of the Empire is both natural and reasonable. It is not to be expected that such a country as Canada can long continue in its present connection with the mother country without bearing some definite share in the common defence. But on the other hand it is not to be expected that Canadians will be willing to bear a proportionate share with the British tax-payer in naval defences and shall have no part in shaping the imperial policy. Hence the reasonableness of the remark of the London *Globe* that the solution of the question of imperial defence depends upon that of imperial federation. The solution of these questions can come only

with the process of national development. Meanwhile the statesmen of Great Britain will certainly be wise in recognizing, as Mr. Balfour does, the strength of the attachment which the people of the colonies feel for the motherland and their eager willingness to go to the defence of the Empire in time of need.

Murder Will

Out.

How difficult it is in these days to conceal a murder is illustrated by the fact that a man named King is awaiting trial in Edmonton on the charge of having killed his companion; a man named Hayward, in the region of the Lesser Slave Lake in the far northern wilds of Canada. The facts in connection with the case are given as follows: Hayward was going on a prospecting trip. He came from the old country, but from his conversation had evidently been mining in Australia. He landed in Edmonton, accompanied by King, who is supposed to hail from Montana. In Edmonton four ponies and a prospecting outfit were purchased. Hayward did the purchasing and left with the storekeeper a bank book showing a deposit in a British Columbia bank. The next chapter in the story is when two men, believed to be Hayward and King, turned up at an Indian reserve at Lesser Slave Lake. They were seen around for a while. Then one night the Indians heard a shot. Afterwards only one man was seen around for a time, and he made himself scarce. The chief of the tribe communicated his suspicions to the police at the nearest post. Two officers made diligent search around the site of the camp. In the dead ashes of the camp fire what is believed to be portions of human flesh and bone were found, while in the mud at the bottom of a neighboring slough different camp utensils were discovered. Sufficient evidence to warrant a prima facie case against King was obtained, and he was traced, arrested, and now awaits trial.

Franklin and Carnegie

Boston is to have a new industrial institution for the foundation of which Benjamin Franklin made provision in his will more than a hundred years ago. Franklin in his will left to the city of Boston the sum of \$5,000 which was to be invested and kept intact for a century, at the end of which time it was to be used for the benefit of the apprentices of the city. The Board of selectmen and the ministers of three denominations were mentioned as trustees who should be responsible for the expenditure of the fund. The \$5,000 was invested in real estate soon after the death of Franklin, which took place in 1790, and it was found on the termination of the trust that the fund had increased to \$270,000. Dr. Pritchard, head of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was placed at the head of a committee to draw up a plan for the formation of an institution for the benefit of apprentices. The increase of the fund had probably more than realized the expectations of the donor, but the sum was still insufficient for the founding of a strong and well-equipped institution. Mr. Andrew Carnegie has, however, agreed to supplement the Franklin fund by twice its amount, making the total amount \$540,000, and also to guarantee an income of \$270,000 for the support of the Institute. It is expected that the city of Boston will provide the site.

The War.

The Russian battleship *Senastopol* which secured a sheltered position which saved her from destruction when the rest of the Russian battleships and cruisers at Port Arthur were sunk or blown to pieces by shells from the Japanese guns on 203 Metre Hill has been attacked by Japanese torpedo boats. The attack was made in the face of great difficulties and is reported to have been at least partially successful. The Japanese are continuing their effort for the reduction of Port Arthur, but it would appear that some hard work and heavy fighting must yet be done before their purpose is accomplished. A Mukden despatch says:—"The Japanese column on Gen. Oyama's right which Gen. Rennenkampf recently drove back to the Taitse River is again reported to be moving northwards and strongly holding the Siadogai-Sianchan region. They also occupy Siadour on the south bank of the Taitse River, and are guarding the bridge, which is no longer of any importance owing to the freezing of the river. The extreme cold keeps things quiet along the front. The distribution of warm clothing to the troops is practically finished.