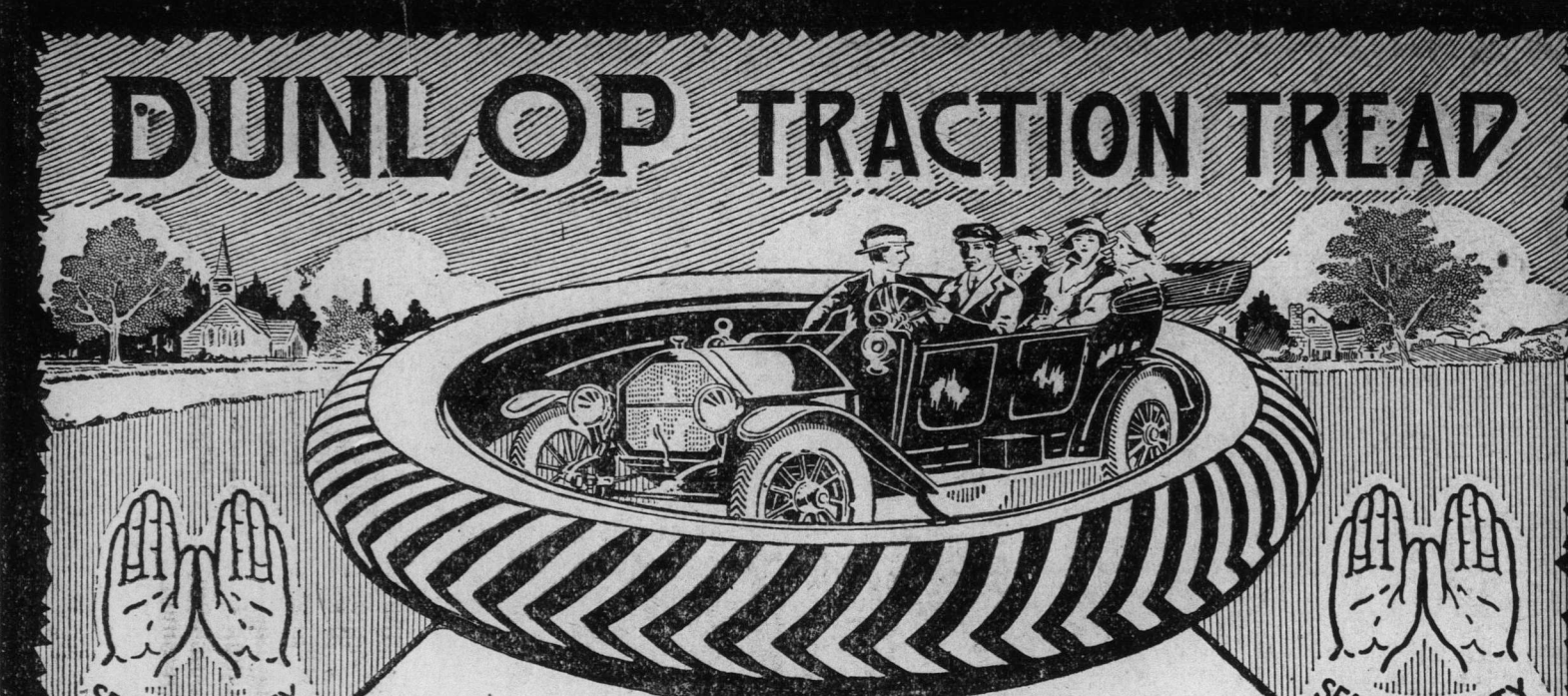


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## Stop Crying Out For More War News.

(By Major-General Sir Alfred Turner, K.C.B.)

### Plain Words on a Much-Discussed Question.

It is very easy to abuse and criticize, especially by irresponsible people who, as a rule, know nothing about the real merits and demerits of the object of their attack.

No department in the public war service has met with such violent vituperation as that of the Censor. People are given to complain that the Censor withholds information from the public which would stir them up to greater enthusiasm in case of success, and to more grim determination to bring Germany down to her knees in case of those temporary reverses which must take place from time to time.

It must be remembered, however, that this country is literally saturated with spies, Germans and pro-Germans, which are not confined to any one nationality, and that there are numerous sources through which every scrap of information that can be of the slightest utility to the enemy is freely conveyed to them.

These facts show that the office of Censor and the suppression of information are two most important factors at the present time.

### English Newspapers go to Germany.

It must be remembered that all the leading English newspapers find their way to Germany, as those of Germany do here. Further, the German General Staff employ a staff of experts to study carefully all enemy newspapers and point out the very smallest assertions which may bear in any way upon the conduct of the war.

Again, their manipulation of a great part of the Press in America is unbounded, and anything whatsoever that may be detrimental to our interests or to those of our Army in the field and our Navy would be made the most of. Therefore, it is manifestly important that they receive no help in this direction from us.

It has been said that there is too much censoring of soldiers' letters. But the most disastrous results might accrue from an apparently innocent statement in correspondence.

For instance, a private sent home to his people a letter which appeared in one of the daily papers, and was headed with his regimental number, the name of his regiment, no town or place mentioned, but just simply giving the address of the British Expeditionary Force.

In this letter he told his parents that his regiment was in very comfortable quarters in a town somewhere in France, quite close to a picturesque old church, and a stream running through the town, where they went every morning for a dip.

This letter was taken by the German Intelligence Department; they knew the town in which this regiment was quartered, and the information regarding the particular part of the

town given in the soldier's letter gave them the opportunity, which they immediately used, of shelling that portion of the town, and wiping out a large number of the soldiers billeted there.

It is said that there can be no harm in publishing the details of fighting after it has taken place, as details of it cannot be any help to the enemy. This, however, is quite untrue. It is well known that, especially in a long line of fighting, the troops engaged have only the faintest idea of what has generally taken place, and the enemy's minor commanders and troops know no more about it than we do.

If details were allowed to be given, it might give information of very considerable value to the enemy for use on future occasions, and, anyhow, with crafty enemies like the Germans, there cannot be too much secrecy.

Can it be for a moment supposed they would let us have such information?

Complaints have been also made that details of our present enormous strength in the field and its training are not given to the world. Of all complaints this is the most groundless.

### Huns Pine for News of Kitchener's Army.

Can it for a moment be supposed that were such details given to the public, that the Germans, who are actually pining to know the strength and disposition of our new army, would not rejoice to obtain some of the very information which they are seeking for? The manner in which the strength of our new formations has been kept secret shows more than anything the great wisdom of Lord Kitchener and our military authorities.

The censorship in France is far more strict in this respect, as in others; the French newspapers are not allowed to publish any information of the war, except the most bare general statements.

We are at war with what Lord Rosebery has rightly termed "a cruel, treacherous, and malicious power, whose government is without a shred of honor, honesty, truth, or mercy, whose army is not composed of chivalrous officers and soldiers, but hordes of cruel murderers and marauders." They are determined to crush us as we are to crush them, and it would be the height of folly to place in their hands any items of information, however small and apparently trivial, which might be of the slightest assistance to them.

At the present time it is everybody's duty not to carp at and abuse our military and naval authorities, but universally to encourage them in the stupendous work which they have to perform, and which must be made still more difficult by criticism and

revilings in the public Press and elsewhere.—Pearson's Weekly.

## Our New Sea Lords Two Good Seamen.

Admiral Sir Henry Bradwardine Jackson, who has just succeeded Lord Fisher, as First Sea Lord and virtual director of the King's Navy, is one of Lord Fisher's men and was intimately associated with that great officer in his notable naval reforms.

He is sixty years of age and has never courted publicity, so that he is little known outside his profession, where, however, he has a high reputation as a scientist and as a strategist. He is a quiet, modest, silent man who knows how to keep secrets and who has the art of getting his own way without fuss or argument.

Before attaining flag rank his service lay among the specialists. He was prominent in the torpedo branch, which has given the nation so many brilliant officers. He commanded the Vulcan, a ship of a peculiar type built to carry about with her a number of small torpedo-boats, after he had commanded the torpedo school ship *Defiance* at Devonport, the sister of the *Vernon* at Portsmouth. He specially distinguished himself as an electrician.

In 1902 he came to the Admiralty as Assistant-Director of Torpedoes. In the previous year he had been nominated a Fellow of the Royal Society for his splendid work in the development of wireless telegraphy. In that department his inventions were numerous, and were all placed at the disposal of the nation. In 1905 he became Controller of the Admiralty, an office which carries with it the duty of supervising the construction of ships and their design. His term will be for ever famous in which he witnessed the commencement of the Dreadnought, which was laid down in October of that year.

He left the Admiralty in 1908 for a brief period of command in the Mediterranean, where he took charge of the Sixth Cruiser Squadron. The force under his orders consisted of only four armoured cruisers, but this was the only fleet he ever commanded in normal circumstances, though in the naval manoeuvres of 1912, when the theme set was the defence of the British coast against German attack, he commanded the Seventh Squadron, with his flag in the *Illustrious*. The years before the war he may be said to have spent in the study of its strategic and tactical problems. He commanded the Royal Naval War College from 1911 to 1913, and in 1913 became Chief of the War Staff, the department which exists to prepare plans for war in peace and in war to direct the operations, under the First Sea Lord.

A second appointment to the Admiralty has been made of an adviser who, though not technically a Sea Lord, will in virtual fact be one of the Board which controls the Royal Navy. This adviser is Admiral of the Fleet Sir Arthur Knyvet Wilson, better known to past generations of naval officers as "Tug" Wilson. Sir Arthur is seventy-three, and he has held important office at the Admiralty and served perhaps longer in command of large fleets than any living officer in our Navy.

He was First Sea Lord from 1909 to 1912, when Mr. Churchill somewhat brusquely retired him, offering him a Peerage which was declined. Between 1901 and 1907 he commanded our most important fleets and obtained an immense reputation as a tactician. Indeed he was always said to be the finest officer at handling a large fleet to be found in any European Navy, though he himself modestly rated Admiral von Kester of the German Fleet higher. He is famous like Moltke for his silence, and he was never known to waste a word. His courage is of the most undaunted. At El Teb, one of the battles in the Sudan which seem to lie in so infinitely remote a past, he won the V. C. by his magnificent gallantry.

He has, it has been said, "an iron mind, a terrible courage, and a relentless will. He is stern with all, but on none is he so hard as on himself." It fell to the writer long years ago to sail more than once in his flagship and watch him at his work. He was indefatigable, being constantly on the bridge. He combined with his daring admirable caution. Thus on one occasion he was making a sweep with a large fleet, in which he was second in command, round the west coast of Ireland, in order to run into Lough Swilly, passing through a very powerful blockading fleet. His senior in command proposed to pass twenty miles west of Mizen Head, the Irish signal station which was in the enemy's territory. He would take no risks. He signalled to his senior proposing to raise the distance to thirty or thirty-five miles so that the fleet might be certain of not being sighted; his wise counsel prevailed.

On that occasion with a large fleet he ran through the midst of the enemy on a wild and dangerous coast in wild weather—continuous sea, fog and drizzle and strong wind—in conditions so bad that for hours it was scarcely possible to see more than a ship's length ahead. That was the kind of work in which he rejoiced, and he trained his captains to perform it.

He is a man who does not know the meaning of the word "self." Of his personal interests he has been supremely careless; to serve his country well and uphold the fame of the Navy, has been the goal of his life.—Daily Mail.

## Young Man,

If you are thinking about buying a BLUE SERGE SUIT, better see our stock first. We specialize on Blue Serges, and carry a splendid stock of never-fade Indigo Blues from \$20 to \$25. As to fit and style, you 'shouldn't worry.' Leave it to us and you will get the best that's going. SPURRELL BROS., 365 Water Street.—may25,eod,tif

## Explosives We Daren't Make.

A Bluebottle Crawling on Iodide of Nitrogen Will Send It Off.

Explosives are solids, which, under certain conditions, suddenly change into heated gas occupying many times the original space of the solids.

Ordinary gunpowder, when fired, turns into gas, of which the volume is four thousand times as great as that of the powder. No wonder the bullet in front of it leaves the muzzle of the rifle in a hurry.

To-day there are scores, even hundreds, of different sorts of explosives known to science. Some, such as lyddite, require a very considerable shock to explode them. Others, such as nitro-glycerine, are fearfully dangerous to handle, for a few extra degrees of warmth or a very slight jar is sufficient to turn them instantly into gas.

Of the latter type there is nothing quite so unstable as iodide of nitrogen. It has to be made in alcohol. When allowed to dry it appears as a brown powder, and so unstable is this powder that a touch—scarcely a feather will set it off. The experiment has been tried of leaving a few grains upon a table mixed with a few grains of sugar. The first bluebottle that flew on the table and began to crawl among the grains caused an explosion.

The mere jarring of the air by a loud shout or a heavy footstep is sufficient to detonate iodide of nitrogen, and it need hardly be added that no one in their senses would attempt to make this terrible stuff. To do so in any quantity would be equivalent to committing suicide.

### "Goes Off" in a Warm Room.

Nitro-glycerine is not so dangerous as this iodide, but at a temperature of only a hundred degrees—that is, very little more than the warmth of the human body—it begins to decompose.

Tons of nitro-glycerine are turned out every day, for it is the explosive from which gun cotton is made. But all the mixing vats are artificially cooled by coils of cold-water pipes.

The cleaner nitro-glycerine is made, the less the danger. Consequently it undergoes any number of washings before it is fit for use. In the earlier days of its manufacture, nitro-glycerine waste water was allowed to run away through open drains, or into streams. It was not realized that this waste constituted a source of danger until, one day, a flash of lightning, striking the ground near a factory, which was soaked with this compound, caused a fearful explosion. A cavity twenty feet deep was blown in the earth, and the factory, itself, although fully 200 yards away, was practically demolished.

Lyddite is, as we have already said, a very stable compound. It can be hammered or burned in the open without danger, and it requires a fulminate or more powerful explosive to set it off. Lead picrate is the usual agent employed.

Lyddite Mustn't be Near Steel. But here is an odd point about lyddite. It must not be left in contact with iron or steel. If this is done the picric acid combines with iron rust to form a very dangerous compound. Consequently, all shells used to contain lyddite are first carefully tinned on the inside.

Lyddite is six times more powerful in its action than nitro-glycerine, and nitro-glycerine, in its turn, is eight times more powerful than the same weight of the old-fashioned black gunpowder.

Ordinary gunpowder explodes upwards. Gun cotton and dynamite exert their force in a downward direction, and consequently are far more valuable for blasting purposes.

If you take a fern leaf, lay it on a flat piece of steel, and on top of the leaf place carefully a small quantity of gun cotton. If the gun cotton be now exploded you will find a perfect outline of the leaf printed delicately on the slab of steel, thus proving that the explosion has been in a downward direction.

Each shot fired in the present war requires three different explosives. First, the detonator for the firing charge; secondly, the firing charge itself, which is usually gun cotton; thirdly, the shell explosive, lyddite or some similar substance.

For a Cough or Cold try Spurrell's Phosphate. Price 25c. extra—may18,tif

## EVERYDAY ETIQUETTE

"Is it correct or not for a gentleman to remove his hat while in a cab with a lady, also who should take precedence when entering a theatre?" queried Jack.

"He should not remove his hat in a cab while with a lady and in a theatre if there is an usher it is correct for the lady to lead her escort," his father informed him.

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