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OPPOSITION to the Canadian navy idea is finding fuller expression. The relics of the Patrons of Industry and the Grange in Ontario are reviving their old talk about militarism. A certain section of the French people are being led to protest along the same line. There is a familiarity about these arguments which brings up a friendly smile when they are trotted out to do duty once more. Militarism is a vague term, very moderately understood by those who declare it to be a bugbear.

Of course, every person in Canada is opposed to militarism. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Borden, the two party leaders, are opposed to it. Nevertheless, the man who has travelled, who has read history and who knows international relations of the day, is a supporter of armies and navies. The world must be policed by individual nations until the day when arbitration courts and a universal parliament shall have set up an era of "peace and good-will toward men." Unfortunately that day is not yet.



HOWEVER, these "grangers" are probably more consistent than the protesters who declare for a money contribution to the British fleet, and against a Canadian Unit of an Imperial navy. When the South African War occurred, a money contribution to the British Army funds would not have been half so valuable as the same amount of money spent on Canadian troops. The picture of colonial troops rushing from all quarters of the world to assist the motherland army in its struggle was a valuable one from an international point of view. Mr. Chamberlain counted more on the moral effect than on the actual physical benefit. In case of a naval conflict, the very fact that there are colonial navies, colonial coaling-stations, colonial repair yards and dry-docks will be of immense moral benefit. This talk about the supremacy of the navy being settled in the North Sea is arrant nonsense.

Further, when the colonial troops arrived at the scene of conflict in South Africa they were found to be, man for man, equal to the trained British soldier. They were less disciplined but they had many qualities which the soldiers of the line did not possess. In scouting and outpost work they were vastly superior. It may be the same with the colonial units of the navy. They may not exactly resemble the British units, but they may have some superior and useful qualities.



FROM the point of view of the benefit to Great Britain, the two features outlined in the preceding paragraph should be sufficient alone to justify the creation of colonial units of an Imperial navy. There is a third feature which should appeal especially to Canadians. The people of this country should know how to build, equip, maintain and direct a navy. We boast of being a nation, but no people having two long seaboards can be a nation until they have learned how to defend those seaboards. No people having a fleet of merchantmen on every ocean are entitled to much consideration unless the flag that flies over these vessels is known and respected. There is no other method, at this stage of civilisation, of having that flag respected than to let the world know that there is behind it a force which will actively resent any wanton insult.

If a Canadian merchantman is confiscated in a Nicaraguan or Venezuelan port, it seems ridiculous to have to appeal to London for a gunboat to go to its rescue. If the Canadian rights in the seal-fisheries are being encroached upon by piratical individuals from Japan or the United States, a Canadian gunboat on patrol would be both advisable and useful.

Again, the fisher folk of Canada, both on the oceans and on the Great Lakes, would be the better of some naval training and experience. If they had this, then in time of a great war in which Great

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By STAFF WRITERS

Britain was involved, they would make splendid naval recruits for British ships. If such an emergency never arose, the training would nevertheless make them better men in every sense of the term; better citizens, better in physique and better workers.



FURTHERMORE, it is quite possible to argue that if Canadian money were sent to England, it would not be as well spent as if it were expended at home. During the South African War, British army funds were not as well administered as Canadian army funds. The Britisher wasted millions by incompetency in buying and utilising supplies. There was some extravagance in Canada in the purchase of saddlery, artillery harness and other supplies; but it can easily be proven that the Canadian Government got better value for its dollar than the British Government.

Only the other day, Lord Charles Beresford in a letter to Premier Asquith charged that there is a system of intimidation in the Admiralty and that an officer who speaks out against abuses finds others promoted over his head. He gives the names of the officers who have been treated thus and all the facts in connection with their punishment. Lord Charles does not rest his arguments on vague generalities.

Canadian administration is none too good. Favouritism and incompetence are still somewhat rampant in our civil service. Political influence affects the giving of contracts and the distribution of expenditure. It is just possible that we have more of these faults than they have in Great Britain. Nevertheless there is no valid reason why a Canadian navy should not be built, equipped and manned as efficiently as a similar unit of the British navy. If it were not so, then Canada as a nation has no right to a separate existence and the Dominion Government should be wiped out.



A CONSIDERABLE portion of this talk against a Canadian navy is the result of a family quarrel in the Conservative party. There are some ambitious leaders in that organisation who think Mr. Borden is too much of a gentleman to be a successful leader. Without mentioning names, it may be said that the centre of this restless faction is in the city of Winnipeg. Moreover, in our opinion, the men who are stirring up this strife are not worthy to be even lieutenants in the party which Mr. Borden leads. They are almost entirely lacking in those high qualities of leadership and statesmanship which Mr. Borden so eminently possesses. The people who know them best within the Conservative party would be the last to wish to see the "revolt" successful.



AT a time when money seems plentiful, and when bank deposits are increasing by leaps and bounds, the investing public are sure to receive a large number of invitations. At the present moment the Canadian newspapers are well supplied with advertisements of new flotations. These are written in most alluring and indefinite language. They are all newly incorporated companies, officered by men of whom the public knows very little, and are formed for the purpose of experimental business ventures. The advertisements are prepared to interest mainly the small investor, the man who has one hundred or two hundred dollars to invest. In some cases the whole flotation is a palpable fraud. In other cases the proposition is put up by men who are over-sanguine or thoroughly impractical.

Even the newspapers which publish the advertisements are usually aware that the people who invest their money in these untried ventures are more likely to lose than to gain. The newspaper publishers solace themselves with the doctrine that people go into these ventures with their eyes open, and it is not the newspapers' business