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THE NAVY THAT IS NOT READY

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spokesmen of the navy to forestall war, to help us to broaden and humanize those American policies which in their judgment are heading us straight towards war. We may not share their fear, but we would be grateful for their powerful help. Perhaps from the crow's nest of the Dreadnaught, they can see things beyond our narrow civilian horizon.

Meanwhile we are sure that we have plenty of time to get ready. No nation wants to attack us. The militarists of the old world find their own bugaboos nearer home. We have no grudge that craves satisfaction in blood. In this age of science, of business, of travel, of law, of enlightenment, there is no place for the ordeal of war, flatly opposed to all these influences.

It is not for war and not for peace that our navy exists. It really stands for giant decoration. For this it is always ready, and for this an old historic Ironsides or a worn-out spectacular Oregon is quite as useful as the latest Dreadnaught. As Mr. Bryce sagely observes, "It seems to be thought nowadays that the dignity and status of great nations require a big navy, just as in the sixteenth century a nobleman of high degree was expected to travel about with and maintain a crowd of useless retainers."

DAVID STARR JORDAN.

GRAFT AND POLITICS

(From Canadian Courier)

Graft has not been a national crime in Canada, but graft has existed and does exist. Most of it is petty. In all the departments of government small things are done which are ignoble and sordid. These are seldom done for personal gain, but rather for party advan-

tage. Padding pay-lists to secure money for political expenses seems to be common.

An ex member of the House of Commons tells of an aunt of his who was much opposed to liquor. If her husband or her sons ever brought a flask or a bottle around, she would rise in righteous wrath and demand that the vile stuff be emptied upon the ground, where it would do no harm. Yet she was interested in her nephew's election and knew that it was customary to distribute bottles of whisky to certain classes of voters. One night, about election time, she was alone in the house when a rap came at the door. Going there, she found a man outside with a horse and wagon. He asked for her husband and seemed quite perturbed because he was not at home. Being a clever woman, she gleaned that he had brought two or three "cases" for her husband. Torn by conflicting emotions she told the man to wait a moment. She went into the house, got a lantern, led the man out to the barn and into the granary, and said to him, "Put them in there and cover them up with grain." At the ensuing election her nephew got a good majority in that division.

Many of us are like the member's aunt. We have one set of morals for private conduct and another set for political behavior. What we would scorn to do for private gain, we will countenance for the party's advantages. So long as this double standard obtains, so long will there be petty graft in our political life.

Our laws against graft and corruption are strict, but they are not enforced. If a public official is found grafting, he is seldom or never punished. He is scarce-

ly ever deprived of office. He may be suspended for a month or two, or he may be transferred from some other job, but he is never sent to jail. So in election corruption the crooked election worker goes unpunished. Neither party desires to punish the corrupt on the other side. There is a sort of mutual understanding that political corruption in elections is to be tolerated for mutual advantage.

Graft will continue so long as our ministers of justice, our attorney-generals and crown attorneys wink at it. There is no one to prosecute. The men whose business it is to enforce the law are a part of the political machinery which benefits by the misuse of government patronage and public moneys. The reform must begin at the top, and in a higher sense of morality among those entrusted with the enforcement of the law.

In every political election in this country there is corruption. Every member of parliament or legislature is more or less a party to it. He knows that several thousand dollars are spent on his election in ways which are not justifiable. But he must either shut his eyes to this sort of thing or retire from the game. There can be no improvement until "saw-offs" are prohibited and the election laws enforced by boards of judges specially entrusted with this duty. Where corruption is charged by either party, this board of judges should be empowered to go into the constituency and investigate. They should have discretion to overlook the little things, but to punish severely the men who spend large sums in debauching constituencies. If ten thousand dollars has been spent where the legitimate expenses should be not more than two or three thousand, the people who are guilty should be punished. Exposure is not enough. Canada has had plenty of exposure, but little real punishment. Under our present system, an election protest is dragged from court to court until it is forgotten or "sawed-off." It is quite possible for a member of parliament to spend twenty-five thousand dollars openly in an election without fear of punishment. If the worst comes to the worst, he resigns on some technicality and goes thru the mock heroics of being elected by acclamation if his party is in power.

The only force which will ever correct these evils in our public life is public opinion and a determined press. In this country there are few independent newspapers, and not many of these are strong enough to conduct investigations or exposure. Hence public opinion has little chance to make itself felt. Under these circumstances, the wonder is that our political life has been as clean as it has, or that there is so little graft in public services. Nevertheless, many of our best publicists believe that graft and corruption are growing, and that a determined effort must be made to awaken the public conscience as to its dangers.

CANADA'S IMMENSE AREA Only 2.6 Per Cent. of Dominion Occupied by Farmers

Ottawa, May 21.—The potential agricultural resources of Canada are indicated by the fact that not more than 2.6 per cent. of the total land area of the nine Provinces is now under cultivation. This is one of the interesting statements in a bulletin just issued by the census and statistics branch of the department of trade and commerce.

The total land area of the nine Provinces is placed at 1,401,316,413 acres. The area of farm land occupied in 1911, according to census figures, is 109,777,985 acres. It is estimated that within the boundaries of the nine Provinces as at present constituted, there is a total cultivable area of 440,951,000 acres. This, it will be noted, is only 31 per cent. of the total land area, and takes no account of forest and swamp lands, which may ultimately be tilled, nor of northern areas, of which the agricultural possibilities are at present unknown, because unexplored and unsurveyed.

The total area under cultivation is given as 36,000,000 acres. Of this field crops represent 35,375,000 acres and fruit and vegetable crops 625,000 acres. Only about 33 per cent. of the area now occupied as farm land is at present under cultivation, while as noted above only 2.6 per cent. of the

total land area is occupied for agricultural purposes.

In Prince Edward Island 89.01 per cent. of the total land area is occupied as farm land, while 90 per cent. is estimated as being possible of cultivation. In Nova Scotia 38.83 per cent. is occupied as farm land with 60 per cent. of the total land area possible of cultivation. In New Brunswick 25.36 per cent. of the land area is occupied with 60 per cent. cultivable. In Quebec 3.52 per cent. is occupied, with 10 per cent. cultivable. In Ontario 9.37 per cent. is occupied with 25 per cent. cultivable, Manitoba 8.33 and 50; Saskatchewan 18.39 per cent. against 40 per cent.; Alberta 10.96 per cent. against 65 per cent.; British Columbia only 1.12 per cent. is occupied with 20 per cent. cultivable.

For all Canada the total land area is given as 1,401,316,413 acres, with 109,777,985 acres, or 7.18 per cent. occupied as farm land. The estimate of possible farm land is given as 440,951,000 acres, or 31 per cent. of the total land area.

SUFFRAGETTES AND THE KING

London, May 22.—Suffragettes again carried warfare into the presence of the royal family when the King and Queen and Princess Mary visited His Majesty's theatre this afternoon to witness a charity performance in aid of the King's pension fund for actors. Just as Their Majesties were entering the royal box a woman leaped from her seat in the stalls and shouted:

"You czar—" She was just about to yell something else when a man who was seated beside her clapped his hand over her mouth. Kicking, screaming and struggling, the woman was borne to the floor and was immediately carried from the theatre. This outburst was a signal for a hostile demonstration against King George. The clamor broke out in all parts of the theatre. Another woman climbed to her seat and began shouting with her face directed toward the royal box, but the confusion was so great her words could not be distinguished.

While being put out another woman suffragette stood up and began haranguing the King.

"Women are being killed in your prisons in their fight for liberty," she screamed, shaking her fist toward the royal family. When attendants and police tried to remove her they found she had chained herself to the seat.

"Rip it up," roared a policeman. The seat was torn up from the floor of the theatre, while the attendants stuffed a handkerchief into the woman's mouth so that she could not continue.

Meantime the King leaned forward looking on with deep interest at the scene in the theatre beneath him. The Queen swept the proceedings with a cold, hostile glance and then refused to pay any further attention to it. Princess Mary was visibly excited.

Carrying the woman and the seat, three policemen ejected the suffragette who resorted to locks and chains, but while their attention was so engaged another woman and man jumped up and began waving their arms and whooping unintelligible words.

Police attaches made a dash in their direction and both were hurled bodily into the street. A woman seated in the first row leaped into the orchestra pit and began climbing to the stage. The director of the orchestra caught her by the foot, but she freed herself by kicking him in the face. She managed to get across the footlights and began a wild harangue.

"We stand for justice—" she screamed, but got no further. Two stage hands caught her and threw her into the arms of two policemen in front of the house, who lugged her shouting and struggling to the street.

HAILSTONES FOOT DEEP

Oxbow, Sask., May 21.—The worst storm of recent years visited the Boscurvis and Meridian districts south of Oxbow, Tuesday. A wind of cyclonic energy, accompanied by violent downpours of hail and rain, made travel impossible, and when the storm was over the hailstones were over a foot deep on the ground. There is more moisture in this district this year than we have had at this season for many years.