

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1912.

## THE NAVAL SITUATION.

While a section of the British press adopted the correct attitude in making light of the recent uncalculated agitation against Great Britain in the German newspapers, it cannot be denied that there has been a strong undercurrent of uneasiness in the Mother Country at the hostile attitude of the Germans and at the policy of the Government in withdrawing ships from the Mediterranean. "The abandoned Mediterranean" was the title of one recent series of news articles. With the addition of a little fuel to the fire there were all the makings of another war scare.

In the magazines and reviews in particular, articles have been appearing which presented a doleful picture of the situation. Lord Roberts returned to his insistence upon compulsory military service, and Major Stewart L. Murray, writing in the July Twentieth Century, warmly championed the plan as the sole solution for the problem of imperial defence. In the current Fortnightly Review Archibald Hurd demands a return to the position of "splendid isolation" sustained by a greatly strengthened fleet, while in the National Review H. W. Wilson frankly discusses the Mediterranean situation and demands two extra Dreadnoughts at once and 6,000 additional officers and men for the British fleet.

These demands the National Review supported by the following unflattering description:

"The British Empire is probably fast approaching the fatal moment when the efficiency of its national armament and of its national defences will be tested by the terrible shock of war. The national credit, with its consols at 76, has been greatly shaken. Our naval pre-eminence is in extreme danger. Our army has no relation to our imperial necessities and is weak in numbers and indifferently armed."

It is evident that this pessimistic view is not shared in by the Admiralty. The wisdom of the understanding with France to maintain a controlling fleet in the Mediterranean, thus making it possible for the British fleet to concentrate in the narrow seas nearer home, appears justified by the present standing of the navies which, in the unlikely event of war, would be engaged. The figures in the "Statesman's Year Book" for 1912, show the French navy is stronger than the navies of Italy and Austria combined:

	France.	Italy.	Austria.
Dreadnoughts.....	2	2	2
Battleships.....	22	24	24
Cruisers.....	20	13	13
Destroyers.....	57	47	47
Submarines.....	90	25	25

Six of the French battleships belong to the Danton class and are superior to any of the opposed ships except the single Italian Dreadnought Dante Alighieri. The Austrian Dreadnought Viribus Unitis was recently reported defective in construction.

Commenting on the situation with the eye of an impartial observer, the New York Sun sees no cause for immediate alarm, and attributes the feeling of uneasiness to the belief in the British mind that the navy was not strong enough to meet possible contingencies in the future. It says:

"Nothing is perhaps more astonishing to the American observer than the fact that this latest revelation of British apprehension coincides with the gathering in British waters of the greatest naval force the world has ever seen, a force which as yet finds no real menace in the growing German squadrons across the North Sea. But despite contemporary supremacy it is plain that the British are reading the estimates and comparative strength in the next few years with disquiet, and that the recall of the Mediterranean fleet has about rivalled the Moroccan incident last summer as a shock to British peace of mind."

Under the circumstances the enthusiasm which greeted Mr. Borden's recent statement of his policy on imperial Naval Defence takes on an added significance. While the exact method of Canada's contribution to the navy has yet to be decided, Mr. Borden made it clear that as "the naval supremacy of the Empire is the very breath of its life," so Canada stood today resolved to play her full part in maintaining the unity of the Empire. Ready to share upon a permanent basis in sea defence if given a voice in the policy which shapes the issues of war and peace. This policy of co-operation by the Overseas Dominions received unanimous endorsement. Coming at a time of unrest, Mr. Borden's statement went far to guarantee the naval supremacy of the Empire in the future.

## ON THE TRAIL OF THE BROWN-TAIL.

An experimental campaign which it is hoped may succeed in checking the ravages of the Brown-tail moth, should this pest become prevalent in the Province, has been started near Fredericton this summer. Two methods are being adopted, one of which will appear distinctly original to the lay mind not versed in the peculiarities of the parasite. It consists in growing a deadly fungus by artificial means, inoculating the Brown-tail caterpillars with the spores and turning them loose to spread the germs of disease in the nests and among the larvae of their brethren. The caterpillars employed are placed in fields and other likely haunts of the Brown-tail and the wind does the rest. A shipment of fungus was received some time ago from Mr. W. F. Rane, State Forester of Massachusetts, under instructions from Dr. Hewitt, head of the Division of Entomology, Ottawa. The work is in the hands of Mr. J. D. Tothill, an official of the Department, who has charge of the campaign against the Brown-tail in New Brunswick.

The second method consists in breeding a species of large beetle, which attacks and destroys the Brown-tail; and also in establishing colonies of a small fly in the phrysalis stage, a thousand to a colony, which is another deadly enemy of this pest. Mr. Tothill recently returned from Boston with some colonies of this insect which will be distributed in sections of the Province where they will do the most good.

The war against the Brown-tail has been waged with much vigor in the State of Massachusetts for some years. Mr. Tothill was formerly connected with the Gypsy Moth Parasite Laboratory, Melrose Highlands (Mass.), and is an expert in the work. The moth has wrought much havoc among the apple trees in the states across the border and while few females have been so far discovered in the Maritime Provinces there is grave danger for the extensive orchards in all the Provinces should this pest once

become established. Apple growers and horticulturists generally will watch the experiments with considerable interest.

Much instructive detail concerning these methods of extermination is contained in a well illustrated bulletin issued by the Massachusetts Forestry Department giving an account of the Brown-tail fungus with which the department has been experimenting for some years. It is found to kill from 60 to 100 per cent. of the Brown-tail moths in the sections where it is planted. The bulletin tells the story of this disease, how it may be produced and spread artificially. It was prepared by Mr. A. T. Spear, assistant pathologist of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, and Mr. R. H. Colley, Austin Teaching Fellow in Botany at Harvard. Its purpose is to acquaint the public with the beneficial results derived in using this disease to destroy the moth.

In summing up the results of the investigations covering the four seasons 1908-11, the report says that it has been found possible to propagate the disease in the laboratory, and to infect caterpillars in the field successfully, both in the spring and in the fall. Under favorable weather conditions the artificially induced spring epidemics have resulted in many cases in the practically complete destruction of the larvae in the planted areas. In the fall epidemics the number of nests infected at the end of the season has ranged from 30 to 50 per cent., and these nests have apparently formed the starting point of early spring infections. The fall plantings, have, therefore, a two-fold efficiency, in that they not only result in the destruction of one-third to one-half of the caterpillars in the autumn, while they are small and comparatively harmless, but also, by establishing the disease in the nests, enable an epidemic to get started much earlier in the spring than any natural infection could develop under ordinary weather conditions.

The last three or four years, adds the report, have not been particularly favorable for natural epidemics or for furthering the spread of the introduced disease, and it seems reasonable to suppose that the fungus would have been far more effective if the weather, especially during the spring months, had been warmer, with a larger rainfall. It has, of course, been impossible to plant all of the infected territory with diseased caterpillars, and in many cases areas cleared of Brown-tail by the fungus in the spring have been invaded by moths from uninfected localities, with the result that they were infested again in August. This condition of affairs is unavoidable, since the moth may fly, or be blown, from some distance. It is therefore necessary for the work to be continued uninterruptedly. The fungus will not clear any territory of moths so that it will remain free for any length of time.

The importance of the campaign in this Province against the Brown-tail, in order to keep orchards clear of the pest, is recognized both by the Dominion and local authorities. Last winter, under instructions from the Local Government, a bonus was offered for the nests and men were employed, under the direction of Mr. William McIntosh, to hunt out and destroy them. Large areas in various sections of the Province are now devoted to apple culture, and with the construction of the St. John Valley Railway this profitable industry will be still further increased. The damage to the crop which would result should this pest secure a foothold on this side of the border cannot well be estimated.

## THE TYRANNY OF DRESS.

The Press is conducting with the usual insignificant results its annual campaign against the barbarous clothing worn by men during the hot summer months. To persons of normal mind, says the Toronto News, it seems incredible that any sane man would suffer the discomfort induced by wearing heavy tweeds, chevots, derby hats, and stiff collars during the summer. Yet no consideration of health seems sufficient to disturb the settled customs of man's attire. It appears that any important change in dress can only be introduced very gradually against the iron resistance of custom even in the most progressive Western nations.

Berlin has started a crusade which may revolutionize the world of dress. The leaders of this movement insist that tweeds, chevots and starched collars be tabooed from July 15th to September 1st, and lounge suits of linen, cambric, or silk materials be substituted. The advocates of this movement see no reason why women can discard heavy garments as soon as the hot weather begins, while men are forced to encumber themselves with heavy clothing merely because it has been the custom.

It is somewhat astonishing that this movement should be seriously advocated in Germany where conventionality is more strictly observed than on this continent with its much boasted individual liberty. Why Canadian men persist in stewing themselves when public sentiment favors a light sensible attire, has been a long disputed question. Conservatism in dress has always been strong in the male sex. Undoubtedly experiments in this direction are being tried. But when all is said and done the only explanation for the non-adoption of the more sensible dress programme is the timidity of the sex.

The women braved and overcame the storm of protest which arose with the inception of Dutch necks, kimono sleeves and transparent hosiery. Yet, poor timid man would roast himself to death rather than discard his coat or carry out any other arrangement beneficial to his health and conducive to his comfort.

## Current Comment

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)  
"Forgive me and forgive my manners," was the historic request of Governor Wilson to Col. Harvey, editor of Harper's Weekly, the man who brought him into prominence and launched the boom for his nomination as President. The Governor thought the support of Harper's was an embarrassment, and asked that it cease to advocate his claims, at the same time apologizing in the memorable words quoted. The first part of the injunction has been acceded to, and Harper's is again praising Wilson.

(London Free Press.)  
Hon. Charles Murphy's sensational "house cleaning" in 1910 had as its chief victim one R. E. Cook, an old-time Conservative civil servant. Now it is discovered that the immediate cause of Cook's dismissal was his proper refusal to make a \$5,000 remittance to a Liberal paper for printing, without having vouchers. The 1911 "house cleaning" was more effective, for it bounced the Minister who bounced Cook.

(Kingston Whig.)  
A horse may slip occasionally on an oiled street, and a long dress may suffer from trailing on the ground, but the dust is laid and the cause of more disease than anyone can conjecture.

(Vancouver Province.)  
After being wind and dined for weeks, the British manufacturers are satisfied that there is a great opening in this country for a peasin factory.

(Ottawa Journal.)  
The late Samuel Northamer of Toronto has tied up for three generations the wealth he left behind. This is worse than making too much money.

(Toledo Blade.)  
Lots of people would rather swat flies than clean up their breeding-places. Swatting is a greater sport.

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WINNIPEG ACCORDS GOVERNOR GENERAL

A ROYAL WELCOME

Winnipeg, July 17.—The Duke of Connaught and his royal party left for the east this afternoon after one of the most remarkable demonstrations in the history of Winnipeg. There was an auto parade a mile in length and the streets were lined with cheering crowds. The Duke gave a luncheon to agriculturists at noon. Last night the social event of his visit was a garden party at which 500 were present.

Inspected West Side Water System. Commissioner Wigmore inspected the water system on the West Side yesterday, and found everything fairly satisfactory. Today he intends to go to Misco and look over the city's property there.

## The News in Short Meter

### LOCAL.

**Lee Property Under Option.**  
The Lee property of 90 acres, sold to a Toronto syndicate, is now under option to an English syndicate at a considerable advance on the former price.

**Mr. Eason's Plans.**  
Advices from Winnipeg are to the effect that C. H. Eason, who has accepted the position of general manager of the Bank of New Brunswick here, will arrive here about the middle of August.

**Police Court.**  
In the police court yesterday, the case against Walter Winslow, charged with assault on T. O'Brien, was adjourned until Friday. The offence was alleged to have been committed in December last.

**Reid's Castle Sold.**  
Although the rumor which gained currency yesterday to the effect that Reid's Castle had been sold could not be officially confirmed, it is learned that an option has been given on the property.

**Purchased Gravel Beach.**  
A. J. Lively has bought Davidson's gravel beach at Little River. There are 25 acres in the property and it is understood that Mr. Lively will hold it at \$10,000. Owing to the demand for gravel which will be created through the development at Courtenay Bay, the property is looked upon as being very valuable.

**The Late Mr. Osborne's Will.**  
The will of the late James Osborne was filed for probate in Toronto yesterday. The estate is valued at \$37,597 and the will provides that the family home be maintained, with the eldest son taking the place of Mr. Osborne at the head of the family. The beneficiaries of the estate are the widow, A. Ross and Hilliard Osborne, of Toronto and Vancouver, and the daughters, Alma, Edith, Roberts, Rhoda and Anne, of Montreal, who will receive \$5,999.64 each.

### PROVINCIAL.

**Collector of Customs Dead.**  
Hillsboro, July 17.—William Woodworth, collector of customs at this customs here died on Monday, aged 79 years. The funeral took place this afternoon.

**Charged With Voting Twice.**  
Moncton, July 17.—John W. Colpitta, a constable of Moncton, has been arrested on a charge of voting twice in the recent election. It is charged that Colpitta voted both in Albert and Westmorland counties.

**Two Men Drowned.**  
Fredericton, July 17.—Charles Graham, Llewellyn Kinney and Everett Farrell were upset from a canoe in North Lake, on Tuesday last. Farrell was saved, but the others drowned. Their bodies were found.

### GENERAL.

**Sons of Temperance.**  
Portland, Me., July 17.—The annual meeting of the National Division of the Sons of Temperance of the United States and Canada opened here today with Rev. Geo. A. Lawson, of Moncton, N. B., presiding. The reports showed that the net membership had decreased 113 during the year.

**Grand Trunk Employees Arrested.**  
Toronto, July 17.—Three conductors who have been running Grand Trunk trains between Toronto and London, are under arrest charged with stealing from the company. Fred Trombey, a G. T. R. telegraph operator, at Prescott, Ont., who had been in his job but one day, was also arrested to day on a charge of stealing \$101 from a cash box in the G. T. R. depot.

**More Money for Printers.**  
Montreal, July 17.—Montreal printers have agreed with their employers for more money. The present scale for hand composition is \$16 per week and this will be increased to \$18.50 for two years, with a further increase to \$19.50 for two more years, and \$20 for a further term of one year, making five years in all. Machine operators will be paid one dollar a week above these rates.

**Resigns Public Service.**  
London, July 17.—The Times announces that Lieut.-General Sir Percy Chetwode, who recently resigned as governor of British East Africa has accepted an important position with Messrs. Armstrong, thus adding another name to the growing list of able public men, who have exchanged service with the crown for private business.

**Police Secure Confession.**  
New York, July 17.—Further arrests in the murder case of Herman Rosenthal, the gambler, who was shot down and killed early yesterday, a few hours before he was to make additional charges that the police and gamblers were in collusion, were expected today to disclose whether the police or gamblers directly instigated the plot to kill Rosenthal. A score or more of plain clothes men are searching the city today for several men whom District Attorney Whitman learned were connected with the shooting. After several hours of grilling, Louis Libby and William Shapiro, who owned the motor car that was used in the killing, broke down and told all they knew of the murder.

**Government's Naval Plans.**  
London, July 17.—It is now authoritatively stated that Mr. Churchill will on Monday make an important pronouncement on the British course of action in view of German naval augmentation. He will deal fully with the policy of the government regarding the fleet in home waters, and the Mediterranean. Mr. Churchill will introduce a bill for a united Imperial navy, the authorities. The supplementary estimates which Mr. Churchill will introduce are expected to contain provision for the addition of men to the whole fleet, an acceleration of work on certain ships building for this year's programme and a special programme for the Mediterranean.

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