

and was closely connected with McMaster University. Always prominent in moral work, he was a staunch advocate of temperance. His circle of private friends was a large one, as large as his acquaintance; he was an upright, able and progressive man, whose death will be widely regretted.

* * *

THE REAL NAVY.

(Hamilton Times.)

IF one were to shut one's eyes to the facts before one to-day and to one's knowledge of recent history, one might be more easily deceived and alarmed by those who seek to shake confidence in the efficiency of British naval defence. The naval manoeuvres witnessed by the Imperial press delegates a few weeks ago were in themselves a magnificent illustration of Great Britain's ability to hold its own; and the display of three great fleets, north, east and west of the United Kingdom, is a demonstration which will certainly not be lost upon the world. In the important fighting classes the increased strength of the navy over that of a few years ago is enormous, and the fleet as a whole is more than 100 per cent. in advance of the capacity shown at the great naval reviews of 1897 and 1902. The great British navy of 1909 would be the astonishment of the naval authorities of twelve years ago, or even seven years ago, had they not grown up with the increase.

A glance backward to the great review of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 discovers only 21 big battleships. There were no more in King Edward's coronation review in 1902. In the manoeuvres of a few weeks ago, there were forty. A contemporary directs attention to the fact that the British fleet has been greatly strengthened by the increase in the number of powerfully armed cruisers which are battleships in all but names. Of these, there were in 1897 only four, and in 1902 only six, while now there are twenty-seven.

* * *

THE DREADNOUGHT PROBLEM.

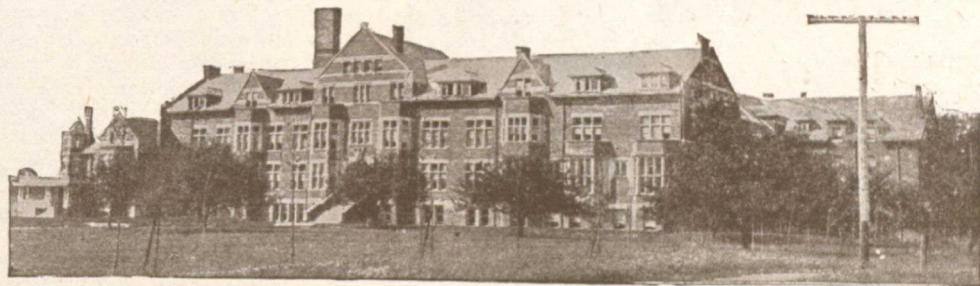
(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

WHATEVER permanent naval policy the Dominions of the Empire may finally pursue, it is their present duty to strengthen the central navy by gifts of *Dreadnoughts* or other contributions, placed at the Admiralty's service with the least possible delay. The onlooking nations are interested to see how these self-governing communities that are sprung from Britain's loins and still live under her powerful protection will behave in the crisis with which she seems to be face to face. Will the great colonies come to the aid of the Mother Country, who has always been their tower of strength? To Germany, in particular, the question of how, in the circumstances, the colonies will act is by no means one of idle curiosity. By that country the present situation is welcomed as a test of the solidarity of the British Empire. Germany's course towards that Empire will largely be determined by the impression now made upon her by the Imperial spirit they show. If all the colonies loyally rally round the Mother Country with offers of naval assistance as New Zealand and Australia have done, the moral effect will be of advantage to Britain. If, on the contrary, Britain's colonies were to hang back, adopting the stand taken by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, there would be great satisfaction in Germany, and fresh heart would be put into the efforts she is making to capture the supremacy at sea.

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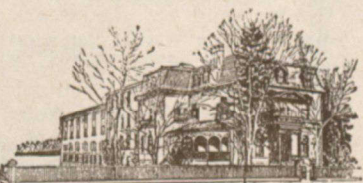
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