

### AN EXPERT'S OPINION

#### AS TO BRITAIN'S NAVAL POSITION JUST NOW

#### In Case There Should be War With Germany—Even if Britain Had More Ships it Has Not the Men to Man Them

The London Daily Express, naval expert has the following to say on "When and How the Germans Might Make War?"

The prospect of a British battle squadron being based upon Gibraltar or of a squadron of battle cruisers being sent to Malta is becoming less and less likely.

Mr. Churchill stated in his speech of July 22nd that the provisions of the German amendment were still only partially realized in this country. If one may judge from the facts of the case, they would not appear to be particularly well realized in Whitehall itself.

In 1911 Germany will have in the North Sea twenty-nine battleships permanently manned with full crews. All these ships, and possibly more, would be ready for action at Germany's "selected moment."

Mr. Churchill is providing for the maintenance of only twenty-five British battleships with full crews in home waters.

At the present moment we have twenty-three battleships in full commission in home waters, and six of these are in dockyard hands. The first lord himself has stated that at our "average moment" from twenty-five to thirty per cent. must be deducted from our nominal strength.

#### Present Position.

Consequently the position Mr. Churchill has devised for us is this: It is admitted that if there is to be war, Germany will make it.

It is admitted that Germany will make war when circumstances are most favorable to herself—at her selected moment.

It is admitted that Germany's "selected moment" will be a surprise moment for us; otherwise we should be not at our average, but at our selected strength.

The strength of the German battle fleet in the North Sea at Germany's selected moment will be at least twenty-nine ships. Our maximum strength in fully manned ships is twenty-five, and a deduction of six must be made from this to give us our average strength.

The real comparison in the North Sea in 1911 will, therefore, be:

Germany (selected moment) ... 29  
Britain (average moment) ... 19

That is to say, whenever she chooses, Germany can be fifty per cent. stronger than we.

In spite of this, it is proposed that we shall have a fourth squadron of eight battleships in full commission, and that they shall be based on Gibraltar.

On the first lord's own showing, a fleet of Gibraltar is on an average four and a half days distant from the North Sea. In other words, the admiralty is deliberately giving Germany a battleship superiority in the North Sea, and, in spite of much verbiage, eight ships, which might and ought to have been retained at home to give us something like an equality at our average moment, are being huddled off to a base from which they will not be able to reach the scene of action until the issue has been decided.

#### Protection at Home.

The country must understand that we cannot at this moment afford to send eight battleships to Gibraltar. The Mediterranean is important—perhaps vital—but less transcending any other need in that for having permanently available at home a battle force

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that will always be superior to the best that Germany can bring against it.

Even with the Gibraltar squadron as the nucleus, our position would still be precarious, since a detachment of twenty-five per cent. from the total of thirty-three battleships would leave us with twenty-five to Germany's twenty-nine.

It has not been and cannot be denied that the battle squadron was withdrawn from the Mediterranean because we have not enough men to man the ships at home. Has the personnel of the navy so increased in two or three months that the admiralty can now afford to send eight capital ships to Gibraltar in place of the six brought home from Malta, and further, to send to Malta four Dreadnought cruisers and four armored cruisers?

The position is one of infinite peril. We cannot for the moment help the fact that during the last seven years our naval policy as regards both ships and men has been altogether inadequate to our needs. The present government has provided for and completed fourteen armored ships while Germany, in the corresponding period, has provided for and completed twelve. The personnel of the German fleet has increased at a far more rapid rate than our own, the percentages since 1905 being 7.7 for the British and 58.6 for the German.

#### Tragic Blunders.

What is done cannot be undone, nor can it be amended by a stroke of the pen. It would be well for the safety of the nation and the peace of Europe if the government would admit its tragic blunders—if they would come into the open and confess the truth—the truth that we are not in a position to maintain a single battleship in full commission outside the immediate vicinity of these islands.

We need battleships in the Mediterranean and we need more battleships in home waters. But even if we had the ships we have not the men to man them.

Another fact that is equally as important as those concerning the battleships is that we have at this moment sixty-seven destroyers in full commission in home waters to Germany's sixty-six. The first lord has himself stated that the Dreadnought standard of sixty per cent. is inadequate for torpedo craft. Sixty per cent. is inadequate—and so the admiralty gives us 7.6 per cent. It war against Russia at her "selected moment," and that the opening took the form of a surprise destroyer raid on the ships at Port Arthur—a raid which crippled the naval power of Russia before the war was well begun? Is it for nothing that Germany has trebled her instantly ready fighting strength in the North Sea in eight years, or that she proposes to increase it another fifty per cent. in the near future?

### SAFE CRACKER IN KINGSTON

#### Believed That Meberm of Gang Paid a Visit Here.

It is thought that one of the safe-crackers who entered the offices of McLaughlin, lumber merchants, in Montreal, last Friday night, was in Kingston about two months ago. He is probably the ring-leader in the attempt to make a big haul, although the thieves only secured \$50 in cash and some papers. The seven men in the party gagged the watchman and shot at a police officer when he appeared.

About the time mentioned, a man crossed the border from the United States, and "honored" the city with a visit for three or four days. He was noticed by several on the street, and his hardened look was commented upon. The stranger called on a gentleman, a former resident of the United States, and "opened up." He related as much of his career as he thought was necessary for his purpose. He told the citizen that he had just been released from Auburn, N.Y., prison, after "doing" five or six years for safe-cracking, and his hunger for another opportunity to repeat this crime was shown up several times, in no disguised way.

He asked the citizen to loan him some money. He said the principal would be returned in a reasonable length of time, with interest. The convict made the citizen understand that the past term in prison was only a slight interruption in what would be a successful career—in his line.

However this glowing offer did not make the citizen donate. While in the city the man was seen with two or three "suspicious characters." His curiosity being somewhat aroused, the Kingstonian has kept careful tabs through the papers on the robbery and safe-cracking that have been executed in this part of the country, and last week's affair in Montreal is the first of that nature for some considerable time.

#### Colebrook Happenings.

Colebrook, Aug. 25.—Richard Wilson and wife left on a visit to the northwest country. Mrs. F. S. Wartman and two children, Hattie and Lorne, have returned from Saskatoon, Sask., after spending a month with her daughter, Mrs. Charles Smith. Mrs. Stinson O. Martin, of Montreal, and young son, Warner, are making a few weeks' visit with her parents. The public school trustees have secured Miss Elizabeth Lacey, of Sydney, as teacher. James Carroll has sold his house and lot on Brooklyn avenue to Edgar Lakens. M. Card and daughter, Vera, Enterprise, have returned home, after spending ten days with her sister, Mrs. George L. John Gordon, teacher, London, Ont., is visiting friends here. Miss Winnie Eckhardt has been engaged as teacher at Erinsville. Mrs. Fletcher Huffman, of Port Frances, is calling on friends here. Wellington Brown, wife and daughter, Mildred, are making a trip through the eastern provinces. Mrs. H. P. Lucas has returned after a two weeks' visit at Centreville. Alexander Irish and family, of Winnipeg, are visiting friends here.

Some people cast their bread upon the water only when they are sure it will be mentioned in the papers.



DECORATIVE EMBROIDERY. The panelled upper skirt of this design is embroidered with cherries and leaves in a contrasting shade. A narrow black velvet collar and velvet wrist bands give a chic effect.

### AN EDMONTON LETTER

#### THREE GENERATIONS IN FAMILY OF HOMESTEADERS.

#### A Minnesota Man, Who Emigrated to Canada Three Years Ago, is Becoming Wealthy by Locating Asphaltum on His Homestead.

Edmonton, Alta., Aug. 26.—Three generations are represented in the family of Alexandre and Albina (Perreault) Couette, of Quebec, twenty-four members of which have come to Edmonton to develop homesteads in the Morinville district, north of here. Their combined ages total more than six hundred years. The head of the family, his three sons and five grandsons are eligible to settle on government lands. The Couettes were truck farmers in the eastern province, where they worked early and late and saved their earnings. Recently they sold their holdings, with a view to taking up larger acreage on the prairie and develop it by scientific methods. Louis (Cabo) was sent to Alberta to spy out land, and the family followed, travelling in a special car from Quebec to Edmonton. This is the first time that any member of the party has been outside the confines of his native province.

Lord Congleton, ardent unionist and tall reformer, who is touring Western Canada for the imperial parliamentary association, said in Edmonton, where he is outfitting to hunt "big game in the Rockies, that the House of Lords, of which he is a member, will reject the Irish home rule bill at the session the coming fall. The unionists, he added, are planning to defeat the Asquith government, but he would not reveal the nature of the coup, saying, however, "I should not be surprised if the next prime minister were to be a member of the House of Lords." Lord Congleton predicted that the franchise reform bill and the bill to disestablish the Welsh church will be defeated, saying also that the unionist party, when returned to power, will, in all probability, repeal the parliament act, following this by an act for the reform of the upper chamber in reducing its number of members. He believes war between Great Britain and Germany is inevitable.

John J. Hayward, who migrated to central Alberta from Minnesota, three and a half years ago, is becoming wealthy as the result of locating a bed of asphaltum on his homestead, thirty-eight miles north-east of Edmonton. He discovered the "black stuff" while plowing last spring, but did not make his find known until after the government had granted a patent on the land. Following a thorough examination by W. H. Williams, formerly an inspector of mines in the United States, a company was organized and incorporated under the laws of the province of Alberta, with a stated capitalization of \$1,200,000, to develop the property. The expert says in his report that "the land" is underlain with a considerable thickness of highly impregnated tar at depths of from three to twenty feet under the grass roots. Surface indications all point to petroleum fields, and it may be proved by drilling that a valuable natural gas, and oil field will be found there.

Official announcement was made, today, by A. C. Galbraith, superintendent of works, that 120 miles of steel on the Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia railway will be laid this season, affording connection with Athabasca Landing, north of here. A track-laying machine, capable of covering a mile a day, will begin work shortly and continue operations to the Peace river. The completion of this road will open millions of acres of agricultural lands, besides tapping rich lumber and mineral districts, which are now without railway facilities. Several large sawmills will be established in 1913 by American firms. The grade between Edmonton and Athabasca Landing has been completed. The company has a site of 142 acres for terminal purposes in Edmonton, and will use the Union station, to be erected by the Grand Trunk Railway company at a cost of \$400,000, for its passenger traffic.

Love heads the list of sweet things that soon turn sour.

### THREE FEATHERS.

#### That in One's Cap, the White One and Job's Turkey's Tail.

"A feather in one's cap" is derived from Scotland. Among the woodcraft enthusiasts it was the custom for the individual first to kill a woodcock to pluck out a feather and place it in his cap. Oliver Cromwell conferred dignity upon this expression when, on his refusal of the English crown, he observed, "Royalty is but a feather in a man's cap; let children enjoy their rattle."

A thoroughbred gamecock shows only red and black feathers, and a cross breed is known by a white feather in its tail. Hence "to show the white feather" conveys a strong notion of cowardice, from one point of view at least.

One may search the scriptures in vain for any allusion to Job's turkey. The expression "as poor as Job's turkey" had its origin in the brain of a humorist, Sam Slick. He described this bird as being possessed of but one feather in its tail and as so feeble a constitution that it was only by leaning against a fence that it was enabled to gobble.—Exchange.

How it must jolt a mother when the son she thought was tied to her apron strings gets tangled up in some girl's love strings.

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Woolwich Arsenal. Britain owes her present arsenal at Woolwich to an accident. The government had a gun foundry in Moorfields, where, upon one occasion, in the year 1716, a distinguished party were gathered together to witness the operation of casting a large cannon. A young foreigner, named Schlach, who seems to have been almost an entire stranger, but who was well acquainted with the details of casting, noticed that one of the moulds had been insufficiently dried, and warned the moulders against using it. They disregarded his advice, and when he saw that he could not prevail upon them to desist, he immediately put himself well out of harm's way before the cannon was cast. A terrible explosion occurred when the molten metal rushed into the wet mould, owing to the sudden generation of steam that could find no outlet, and several persons were killed and a large number injured.

To Protect Premier Borden. London, Eng., Aug. 29.—In view of the attempts made on British ministers, on previous occasions, Scotland Yard detectives have been detailed to protect Premier Borden from suffragette molestation during the remainder of his stay here.

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