

OUR VANISHING ARMADA

By H. F. GADSBY.

The theory that the Minister of Marine scrapped the Canadian navy out of pique because the caucus said wait-a-bit to any one of Admiral Jellicoe's suggestions will not hold water. Mr. Ballantyne may be something of a dictator in his own department, but he could hardly make away with sixteen million dollars worth of national property on his mere say-so.

The thing was done deliberately after earnest consultation with his colleagues. It is the most popular thing the Government could do in a year of Sundays. The hope is expressed that it foreshadows other slashing retrenchments by a government which has at most two years to live, and might as well go to its grave with a record of necessary and disagreeable things done in a courageous way.

Round Table Good-Bye.

The sadly solemn fact is that Canada has never been in love with her navy. What Sir Wilfrid Laurier did in the matter was under pressure from the imperialists and what Sir Robert Borden failed to do in a similar direction was a squeeze from the same quarter. Our navy, actual or potential, pleased only a few imperialists of the Royal Table type.

It always the inflammation, soothes the irritation, and heals the diseased mucous lining of the lungs and bronchial tubes. Mrs. Leo Allen, Petite de Grat Bridge, N.S., writes: "Last winter I had an awful cough that kept me in the house for over two months. I tried several cough remedies, but got no relief. I was almost discouraged when a grocer here offered me a bottle of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. After taking that one my coughing began to ease. I took two more and they cured me completely."

Get the genuine Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup; put up in a yellow wrapper; 3 pine trees the trade mark; price 25c. and 50c.; manufactured only by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

Strike of Image Carriers. Madrid, April 1.—The Bull Fighters' Association has decided to refuse the demands of the banderilleros for a settlement of the dispute between them. The managers of the bull fights indicated, that owing to differences of opinion between them and their employees, several bull fights have had to be suspended, especially because of a lack of toradors.

Spend \$8,000,000 on Roads. Victoria, B.C., April 1.—Announcement is made by Hon. J. H. King, provincial minister of public works, that approximately \$8,000,000 will be expended on highways in the province during the next three to five years.

die-Europe crowd, brought up to believe that war is an outdoor sport. The less we have to do with this dampcoolishness the better. We are disposed to agree with Uncle Sam, who refuses to lend any more money to people who would rather fight than work. Anybody who has visited Europe since the war was over will tell you that revenge is still the uppermost thought in men's minds and that the little nations were so keen to free make use of their freedom to scrag each other. The trouble is that they are not educated up to democracy. On the contrary they are sunk in ignorance. What they need even more than freedom is public schools. It goes without saying that we cannot afford to mix up with the Dark Ages, as exemplified by the Rumanian, Bulgarian, Ukrainian, Polish and other backward peoples. When we fight for them again they will be worth fighting for. When we scrap our navy we serve notice that we wash our hands of them until they are fit for enlightened company. What we want is ships to carry our own trade—and by the same token we must be careful whom we trade with in that bunch of bankrupts. We must take the cash and let the credit go. This North America is a world by itself, guarded by two oceans and the breasts of free men. We are secure in our own puissance and if the old world wants to commit suicide, it must not reckon on our interference.

I can honestly say that I have not heard one member of Parliament complain of our defenceless position since the navy went to the junk heap. We are friendly with the Esquimaux and the Yankees and, these sources of invasion being discounted, we haven't an enemy in sight that we couldn't fend off with one birch bark war-cano. The United States is building a bigger navy than England's and if Japan ever threatens to bite us in the leg—we feel perfectly safe there too.

The navy out of the way, I understand that we are to concentrate on an air force. Aeroplanes have this advantage—they are as useful in peace as in war. For example at the next general election you shouldn't we use 'em to drop pamphlets on the beleaguered cities, plant colonies of voters where they will do the most good, and then whisk 'em away as soon as they've got their work in.

Anticipating whatever reply the French government may make to Great Britain, the French press is treating its readers to a fulsome description and analysis of the successor to the German "Big Bertha." Indeed, judging by reports here, this great French cannon could easily tumble down the Dover cliffs and perhaps knock Nelson off his pedestal in Trafalgar Square.

It is generally believed here that range of this cannon, at its present stage of development, is between 100 and 150 miles. However, some commentators disagree with this.

M. Breton, minister of hygiene and social welfare, and formerly under-secretary of inventions, discussing the new cannon, said: "A man by the name of M. de la Marmaze perfected the plan for this great firing piece. He applied a new and interesting principle in artillery—one which makes it possible for a cannon to absorb and survive a most violent recoil. We constructed ten cannon in experiments before we perfected the present one."

M. Breton did not tell the secret of the construction of the cannon, but admitted, naturally, that it was not greatly different from an ordinary cannon. One of the Paris newspapers prints the following description of the cannon by an anonymous artillery expert: "The cannon burns powder in a certain kind of a reservoir, and is so constructed as to give the shell, when fired, the greatest velocity. The lateral grooves of the cannon's walls are so disposed as to permit all the burning gas to escape in the rear, which has the effect of creating a reaction against the recoil. This arrangement makes possible a very high pressure from the reservoir to give a tremendous velocity for the

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It always the inflammation, soothes the irritation, and heals the diseased mucous lining of the lungs and bronchial tubes. Mrs. Leo Allen, Petite de Grat Bridge, N.S., writes: "Last winter I had an awful cough that kept me in the house for over two months. I tried several cough remedies, but got no relief. I was almost discouraged when a grocer here offered me a bottle of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. After taking that one my coughing began to ease. I took two more and they cured me completely."

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NEW GUN IN FRANCE EXCELS BIG BERTHA

Mystery About Cannon With Range Estimated at 100 to 150 Miles.

Paris, April 1.—France's long range cannon, reports regarding which have been current in Europe for some time, has become a chief topic of discussion here, since England has paid the destructive monster the compliment of expressing concern about it in the House of Commons.

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shell and a very low pressure in the barrel of the cannon, whence the shell is ejected. "We obtained an initial velocity of 700 metres a second, and there is no reason why this should not be increased tremendously."

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MATHIEU'S SYRUP OF TAR & COD-LIVER OIL

Half Locomotives are Useless. Moscow, April 1.—The latest survey of the transportation system in Russia show there are 10,000 locomotives in the country, and fifty-nine per cent. are unfit for use. In 1914 there were 20,900 with sixteen per cent. out of commission. There are at present 48,500 versts (a verst is two-thirds of a mile) of line in operation, with eight locomotives to each verst; in 1914 there were 63,000 versts of line operated, with twenty-eight locomotives to each verst.

\$100,000,000 for Houses. Chicago, April 1.—Chicago bankers will lend \$100,000,000 during 1920 to home builders in an effort to end the housing shortage. It was announced to-day. Part of the fund will be made available immediately to enable victims of the tornado to rebuild their homes.

Continental Oil Melon. Denver, Col., April 1.—Directors of the Continental Oil Company have decided to pay a stock dividend of 20 per cent., each stockholder to receive two additional shares for one now held. It was announced to-day. The sturgeon's air bladder is the principal source of isinglass.

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