

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1909.

CANADIAN AND IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

All the great nations are under a sense of compulsion, spending a large part of their revenues in military and naval preparations, the maintenance of armies and fleets and in paying the interest on old war debts. On the army alone Russia expends yearly 200 millions, Germany 185, Great Britain 145, France 140, the United States 120 and Austria 100 millions of dollars. On their respective navies Britain expends 160 millions, the United States 110, Germany 65, France 65, Russia 55 and Australia 12 millions.

Taking the expenditure on both army and navy together Britain comes first, then Russia followed by Germany, the United States, France and Austria. But when the present military and naval programs are worked out in the near future only Britain will be spending more money than the army and navy together than the United States. With the accession of colonies and dependencies the Republic has abandoned earlier traditions and is fast becoming a great world power. And we may bear in mind that United States is Canada's one neighbor nation.

All this has a material bearing upon Canada's position in regard both to home defence and the defence of the Empire. It had been hoped in a past generation that America might be spared the burden of military expenditures under which Europe has so long suffered. It now appears that the new world is following the example of the old, and Canada is, perhaps inevitably following where the United States has set the pace. Our military expenditure has increased threefold within a few years and now Canada is to have a navy of her own.

Both the political parties in Canada agree that this necessity exists. It is not because our next neighbor is becoming so strongly armed, that Canada takes action. We count strongly on the friendly relations that now exist across the boundary line, cemented by ninety-five years of peace. Still, the example of our neighbor, following that of the European nations furnishes a powerful incentive of itself. A more potent influence is the necessity for organizing the defence of the entire British Empire on a just basis and in some thing like a fair proportion to the ability of the central Kingdom and of the over-sea Dominions to pay the cost.

To tell the plain truth the people of Canada were becoming ashamed to longer permit the people of the British Isles to bear alone the vast burden of the naval defence of the Empire. Some other British dependencies, notably Australia and New Zealand, had been earlier moved than we were. The South African War, and the more recent alarm over German hostility and a possible attempt at the invasion of the Mother Country, successively gave a new impetus to this feeling, with the result that Canada is fully committed to bear her part in preparation for the general defence of the Empire by sea and land.

We may regret the necessity for incurring large expenditures in preparation for war, but we must bow to the logic of events, hopeful that with due preparation for any emergency, the chances of war occurring may be reduced, and should it occur that defeat and disaster may be at least averted.

So hereafter the Canadian budget must provide not only for arming and drilling the militia, but for the cost and maintenance of our own warships on the Atlantic and Pacific.

The first ships for the defence of our ports, coasts and commerce will be built in British yards, to be followed by the creation of Canadian building yards on the two oceans. This general plan seems rational and feasible enough. It will cost a good deal of money no doubt, and the demands will grow from year to year but as things go it cannot well be avoided. And to the push of necessity is added the fact that Canada is much able to undertake this task now than she was in a past generation and is rapidly growing in wealth and resources of revenue.

THE NEW ICE-BREAKER, EARL GREY.

The cables tell that the new ice-breaker Earl Grey is ready for trial and is expected to make seventeen knots speed, that her engines are of 6,500 horse power, and that the steamer does not look like an ice-breaker but like a huge pleasure yacht. Such reports may lead some to the opinion that summer pleasuring has been kept too much in view and winter service not enough, but speculation on that head at the present stage is useless.

Her real trial will not be over the measured mile on the Clyde in summer waters, but in the Straits of Northumberland among the ice-fields and bergs next midwinter. There is hope in the high power of the Earl Grey's engines, which exceed those of the Minto and Stanley combined. This ought to count in her favor, although the Minto, with greater power than the Stanley, did not prove to be a more successful ice-breaker.

The Guardian is informed, but not officially that the operation of the Earl Grey will be entrusted to Captain Pilayson, the veteran and senior of our winter commanders, and that Captain Brown will be given command of the Minto. Also that the new captain of the Stanley has been selected from Nova Scotia. The Stanley will be withdrawn from the Island service when the western route closes. How long it is to be kept open in a matter yet to be fought out.

We are strongly of opinion, in view of the confessed failure of the Dominion Government to make good its guarantee of effective and continuous winter service, that the three steamers should be employed in the Straits this winter, and the western route has strong claims to a further trial. Something may depend upon how resolutely this claim is asserted, and it is worth fighting for. The mind of the Marine Department at Ottawa is pretty well known. It remains to be seen whether our rather pliable representatives have mettle enough to change it and retain the three steamers.

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The stock is Velour and Box Calf.

\$3.50 is a very popular price for men's shoes these days. We were bound to have the best and we got them.

This way for \$3.50 shoes.

GOFF BROS

THE WIRELESS TELEPHONE NOT FOR COMMON USE.

The news comes to hand that experimenters have been talking 150 miles over the wireless telephone, and a New York newspaper hints that the new method may yet make junk of the wires and exchanges of the present telephone systems. How unlikely this is will appear when one comes to think of the cost of the sending and receiving equipment which every patron would require to have in his own home or office.

And there is still another insuperable obstacle. If all the conversations that are going on in a city were flung into the air ready to be caught up by the hundreds of receivers the listeners might imagine that the confusion of Babel had returned. And no "tuning" of senders and receivers to shut out the voices from the other instruments would be practicable, for every receiver must be ready to receive from any station, otherwise conversation with different subscribers could not be carried on. City telephoning bids fair to keep to the wires indefinitely. The wireless phone must be always limited in its usefulness.

Congratulations to Rev. E. J. Rattee on his elevation to the position of High Chief Ranger of the High Court of I. O. Foresters. The honor is mutual as between the High Court and its Chief.

Complaint is frequently made of the imperfect administration of the prohibitory law, but what of the noxious weeds? We fail to learn of any reasonable effort to put it in operation in any place. The weeds have grown at will and gone to seed. The more prudent and energetic farmers, have been killing weeds as they always have done and the slovenly and neglectful ones have gone on in their old fashion, without let or hindrance. It is too late now to remedy the matter for this season. Would it not be well for the Farmers' Institutes to take this matter up with a determination that the officials shall enforce the law next year?

New Advertisements

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Our line of jewelry and watches sells at very low price.

Our prices are the lowest because our expenses are so small.

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These cash prices for Saturday only Aug 28th.

James Kelly & Co.
5-1818mtf

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If you have patronized all the other tailors and have failed to get clothes satisfaction, don't lose hope: We have solved the clothes problem for hundreds of other men, just when they were on the verge of despair—we can do the same for you. All we ask of you is the opportunity to do so, and we assure you that our part of the bargain will be promptly and satisfactorily carried out.

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Sunnyside

8-417wts23jr

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James Paton & Co



"Now what will those of you who still need a shirt waist or two to finish the summer with, say to us when we tell you we are selling out the balance of our fine lawn shirt waists at half price. They're not old fashioned but full of the latest style touches.—Prowse Bros Ltd. 8-26d31.

"Two yards by one and a half yards, that is the size of the best twilled imported tartan carriage Goff's. wrap that we are selling at \$2.00, \$2.25 and \$2.50. They are the best value ever offered to horsemen and farmers that we know of. The patterns are all good. Jas Paton & Co. 7-23d1t.

"21 pounds Granulated Sugar (United Empire) for \$1.00 at Beer & Goff's. 8-27d21.

"High quality cut glass ware, silver ware, and china, such as will appeal to the most exacting taste, go to make up our large stock of wedding gift wares. G. F. Hutcheon, Jeweller Optician. 8-27d21.

"If there's anything you need in belts, summer underwear, bathing suits, remember our one third off sale. H. H. Brown, the young men's man. 8-27d21.

"Wanted 100,000 pounds of washed and unwashed wool. We will give the highest price possible for yours. Prowse Bros. Ltd. 8-26d1t.

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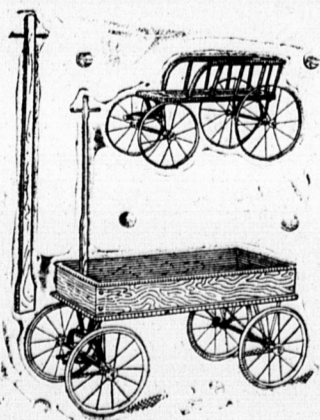
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