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**H.A. Ellis,**  
The Bargain Druggist.

Opposite the Market **ELLIS** Successor to Watson  
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**ENGLAND'S STRENGTH**

Opinion of U. S. Attache at London.

**BRITAIN'S NAVAL FORCE**

Equal to That of any Three Continental Powers.

(New York Sun.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—In an interview Commander Richardson Clover, naval attache at the American embassy in London, who is here on leave of absence, declared to the Sun correspondent that the naval forces of Great Britain are in a far more effective condition than the Continental Powers believe, and that never in her naval development has England been stronger on the seas. Recent torpedo boat accidents have made little impression in British naval circles, he declares, and their program calls for the continued advance of the highest class of boats of the swiftest possible speed. Commander Clover added:

"The naval force that Great Britain is capable of exerting is equal to-day to that of any three Continental Powers and was never in a more efficient condition. The British service has been severely criticised, but much of this criticism as to its efficiency is due to a policy of the Naval League and the press to depreciate in the mind of the public England's strength, in order that large appropriations may be secured for expanding the navy and to continue the policy of maintaining it equal to that of the combined strength of any two world Powers. The policy in England seems to be to impress the public with the weakness rather than the strength of the British service, with a view to securing additional ships through misapprehension in the public that the force is not keeping pace with its importance to the nation.

Ship for ship the new vessels of our navy equal in every respect those of the foreign services, but we have comparatively few. Abroad the United States, while of course, reckoned as a naval power, cannot be said to be counted in any combination that nations might make against others. The Spanish war did much to enhance our standing before European navy powers, but we are still regarded as entitled to no higher rank than seventh place, which would place us nearly alongside of Japan.

"England today is stronger than any two of the most powerful Continental Powers, and stronger than these with another Power included. She has 20,000 men afloat, and although her naval reserve is not so strong and perhaps so well drilled as that of France, the real strength of personnel is in the trained, disciplined men afloat, who are being constantly increased. Her Channel fleet is a magnificent aggregation of fighting force, constantly kept at sea and ready for any assignment. The ships are already in excellent condition, and reports of weakness and rottenness are without the slightest semblance of truth. These reports are circulated by the Naval League, an organization for the upbuilding of the British navy, with branches throughout the British Islands. In fact the Admiralty will often refuse to officially deny statements of reported defects in the British navy, and rather encourage a belittling of its strength than magnifying it.

"Last year men were employed by the Admiralty to walk the populous thoroughfares of London with posters decrying the weakness of the British navy and containing statements of the terrible condition of the ships and ruin that would befall the nation if the navy was not strengthened. The posters were designed to create public sentiments among the people for more liberal appropriations and had some effect. The Naval League in its publications magnifies purposely any accident befalling a torpedo boat or large vessel or any report of weakness developed in some fine ship, in order to depreciate the real strength of the navy in the public mind. This policy works upon the feelings of the people, with the result that England each year votes enormous sums for her defence."

**CECIL RHODE'S ADVICE.**

LONDON, December 16.—Cecil Rhodes publishes a letter in the Telegraph on the question of the future of South Africa. He insists that the only way by which an assured and lasting peace can be arranged is to bring about an intermixture of the two races of white inhabitants of the soil following the same pursuits, having the same interests and daily exchanging social intercourse.

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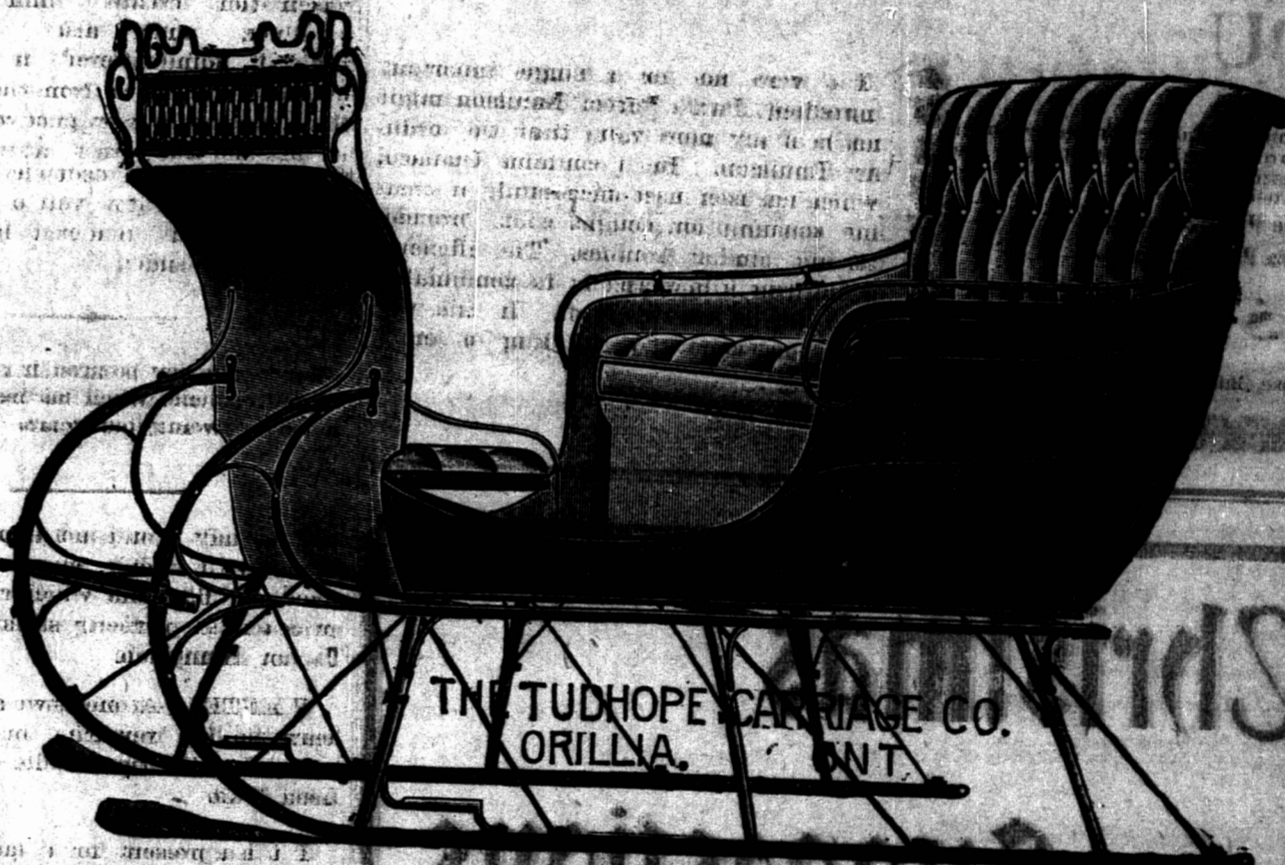
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