

The Defence of the British Empire.

That the impotence of Russia, partly occasioned and partly merely revealed by the war with Japan, implies danger to Great Britain, is the opinion of many students of European political conditions. So long as Russia was a Power to be reckoned with, England could trust to the alliance between Russia and France to prevent the Triple Alliance between Germany, Austria and Italy from threatening her security. Now that France stands practically alone, Britons are aroused anew to a discussion of the defence of the Empire. To this subject the Nineteenth Century for May devotes five articles, besides an article on the balance of power in Europe. The late Director of Naval Construction, Sir William H. White, examines the policy of the present government regarding the disposal of British naval vessels. He finds that policy vague, unconvincing and unsafe. Many of the warships which the government has decided to abandon he regards as still of great use. It is true that they are in one or more respects antiquated, but he believes that in case of war they would be invaluable in taking the place of more modern vessels which might be destroyed or injured. Major General Russell argues that invasion of England is possible, and that therefore it is folly to trust solely to the navy for defence; he likens the Council of Defence, dominated as it is by civilians, to a group consisting of a nurse, a guardian, and a lawyer called in consultation on a difficult surgical case. In spite of the fact, however, that Mr. Balfour is a civilian, there are army men who practically agree with him in the opinion which he repeated last week, that a serious foreign invasion of Great Britain need not be contemplated. This leads naturally to a discussion of British land forces. The Earl of Meath argues for universal military training for lads; the Earl of Errol pleads for a reform that will induce men without wealth, and especially men who are naturally fond of danger and activity, to enter the army as officers; and A. W. A. Pollock, late lieutenant colonel of the Somersetshire Light Infantry, illustrates, by narrating his own experience, the value of training individual soldiers as well as constructing an army. All these articles are designed to shake the stolid British conservatism at which we Americans are wont to smile complacently. We forget that in our own way we are as immobile. If any one believes that we are never stupid or headstrong, never backward, never content with antiquated measures, let him read Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee's article in the May Century on How the Japanese Save Lives. Happily, the United States is in no such critical position as Great Britain. Our kin across the sea cannot view without concern the growth in comparative influence of Germany and her allies; to maintain their own independence and the integrity of their empire they must make friends with France and keep efficient every means for their own defence. American blundering now would be perilous in the extreme.—New York Outlook.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that Contain Mercury,

as mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free. Sold by Druggists. Price 75c. per bottle. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

A Limit to Life Insurance.

(Brooklyn Eagle.)

Perhaps the most sensational proposition is that the insurance companies be limited to carrying insurance in force to \$1,000,000,000. This suggestion is born of the conviction that the accumulations by a few of the companies have become so vast that the power inherent in them, concentrated in the hands of a few, will become a menace to the republic. The growth of some companies has been so great in the past ten years that the two billion mark is being rapidly approached, if it has not already been reached by one of them. Corresponding, if not greater growth during the next ten years is indicated.

The record of these companies shows that their insurance in force, their assets and their incomes have more than doubled each decade. In 1918, then, there will be \$2,500,000,000 of annual income in a single company, with two others running up closely. Such vast accumulations are regarded covetously by promoting financiers. They seek their control and there is danger in that control if secured. If in the hands of a few, the

possibilities will be sinister enough. Diffused or divided among many companies, control for improper purposes will be made difficult. A halt should be called. And it can be obtained by limiting the amount of insurance a company may write.

All of these suggestions should be converted into law by congress and national supervision should supplement that of the state.

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SUFFERED INTENSELY FOR THREE YEARS AND WAS

Horribly Disfigured.

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"For three years my daughter, Fannie, was afflicted with eczema in an intense and persistent form, and for nine days she was totally blind. The burning, itching and disfigurement were horrible, her entire face being raw for months, and the distress so great that she could not sleep.

"The best efforts of two eminent physicians failed to even mitigate her awful suffering. One day when I was low-spirited over my daughter's condition Dr. Chase's Ointment was recommended to me and to our surprise Fanny was helped with the first box and she has since been entirely cured by this treatment.

"Her face is now as smooth as a baby's and she is in splendid health. The credit for this cure is entirely due to Dr. Chase's Ointment, and I cheerfully give you permission to state my daughter's case, hoping that it will lead many others to secure the same good results."

Dr. Chase's Ointment is recommended and sold by all dealers at 60 cents a box or sent post paid on receipt of price by Edmansson, Bates & Company, Toronto.

The Mummery of Manners.

Some coiner of paradoxes has said that everyone is acting except when he is on the stage; and in saying it he has uttered smartly a curious truth. We are striking attitudes—every one of us—the livelong day, and are seldom conscious of the fact that we are acting. Yet what is our habitual demeanor, our manner, our conversation, if not a player's pose? Watch a woman enter a drawing-room; observe her graciousness, her nonchalance, her bearing, all studiously natural, a perfect affectation of simplicity. Put her on the stage and ask her to do the very same thing and she would be awkward and unreal because the knowledge that she was acting would be present in her mind. She does not enter the drawing-room that way when none but her sisters and younger brothers is present. The queenly air is artificial, the product of long training, but only when placed in an unaccustomed environment, as on the stage, does a well-bred woman become aware of it.

Look at a large party of men at a political dinner. Could anything be falsier than the manner of the speakers and the tone of the speeches? Most of the men, accustomed to such meetings, seem at ease, but what they mistake for ease is only an adept affection of the proper, traditional attitude for the occasion. Put them on the stage to play the part of banqueters before an audience and they would seem constrained and affected, as they really are, for then they would be conscious of their acting.

We are taught from infancy to practice mummeries and hide our real thoughts and emotions. Home and school alike are colleges of acting. The child is taught to repress his spontaneous impulses, to keep his thoughts to himself, and to do and say only what is usual and correct. Good manners are nothing but certain usages of social mummery. Tact is merely knowledge of the stage directions for the acting edition of the drama called "Life," and skill in performing them. To be really natural—that is, not to be an actor—is to be what is considered crude or eccentric.

It is asserted by a London exchange that a methodical and business-like bank clerk in a country branch forwarded a letter to the following effect to the head office: "Greatly regret to inform you I died this morning of pneumonia John Smith, per James Brown."

What is given below is printed on a sign-board in front of a bar-room which is right beside the railroad station in Desher, Ohio: "Every Nation is welcome in this place but Carrie."

Nuggets of Wisdom.

The sun that shines in the face rises in the heart.
 There is no man ever any better than he wants to be.
 The trouble with most advice is that it is only accusation.
 Health may be wealth, but it takes industry to convert it into cash.
 The only man who ever made a mistake died when he was a boy.
 The man who is too good for his job has a job that is too good for him.
 The fellow who waits always gets what he wants when he waits on himself.
 If a book bores you, it's an easy matter to shut it up, but when a man bores you—well, that's different.
 Most single women say they wouldn't marry the best man in the world, and most married women know they didn't.
 If all would work a little, none would be overworked.
 It takes less than two half-truths to make a full-sized lie.
 People who advertise their troubles seldom clear off their stock.
 The difficulties that dishearten the small man only determine the great.
 He isn't very much in love if he writes sensible letters to his best girl.
 Take sunny views of things. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."
 Many a man's reputation would not know his character if they met on the street.
 A man is seldom able to see a job when he looks through the bottom of a beer glass.
 A good many of the difficulties we complain of are difficulties only because we complain.

Revival in Norway.

A spiritual awakening is being experienced in Christiania, Norway, worthy to be compared with that in Wales. The young evangelist, Albert Lunde, who has been working until recently among the Norse and Danish people in various parts of this country, has found the people of Norway ripe for an awakening. For two or three years notable revivals have occurred in various towns, but the State Church, which is Lutheran, has been rather conservative in movements of this kind, so that pastors of that church have held back, and the Free churches have but small following. Mr. Lunde has now begun at the chief city of the realm, and has procured the support and sympathy of the bishop. The chief difficulty being thus removed, everything favors a great movement. The meetings starting in a large church soon overflowed it; and now for weeks they have nightly filled the largest hall in the whole kingdom. On a single Sunday Mr. Lunde sometimes addresses 10,000 people. All classes of people are being reached. Remarkable results are reported from the conversion of thieves, murderers, fallen women, as well as from the law-abiding and respectable. Confessions of the most surprising character are being received by the evangelists. The power of the Spirit of God is appearing in many persons and in ways not known before in Norway.—Boston 'Congregationalist.'

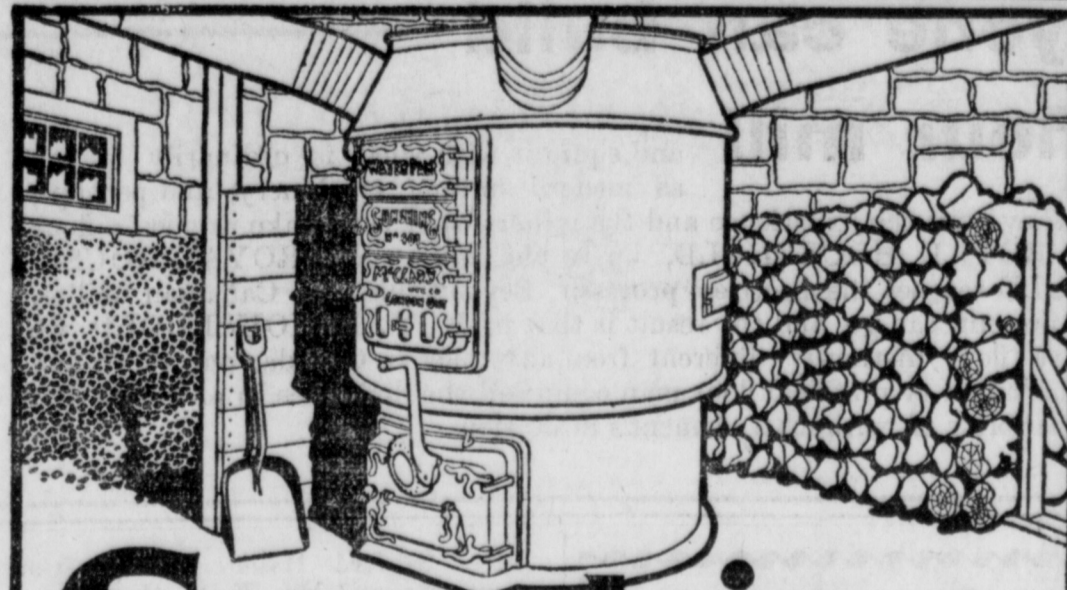
Kitchener's Difficulty in India.

Says Marquis de Fontenoy: In order to understand Lord Kitchener's threat to resign the command in chief of the British army in India it is necessary to explain that Major-General Sir Edmund Roche Elles, the military member of the so-called council or cabinet of the Viceroy, has virtually usurped the function of a secretary of state for war, and contends that he should be left in supreme control of all the supply, contract commissariat and armament departments of the British forces in India. In this he is sustained by Lord Curzon and by the council who think it well that these branches of army administration should remain subject to them rather than to the commander in chief.

Inasmuch, however, as the entire success of all military operations depends upon transport, supply and armament, and as Lord Kitchener both in Egypt and in South Africa showed himself to be a past master in their administration, he declines to command the Indian army unless they are left under his absolute control instead of being directed over his head by an officer of much inferior rank and of relatively obscure antecedents.

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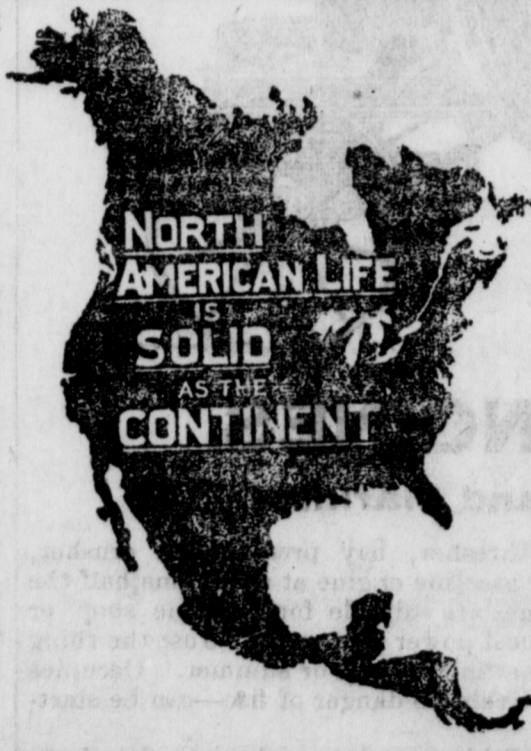
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