

GERMANY AND GREAT BRITAIN.

Former Expected to Fight.

FLEETS OF BOTH COUNTRIES HELD IN READINESS.

One Writer Claims England Was Caught Unprepared.

BRITISH CHANNEL FLEET LEFT GIBRALTAR WITH SEALED ORDERS

That Specifically Mentioned the German Fleet.

Submarine Divers Sent Out to Guard the Straits.

London, Feb. 15.—Simultaneously with the recent significant speech of Arthur Hamilton Lee, civil Lord of the Admiralty, in which he explained the reasons for the redistribution of the British navy, there appeared in the current number of The National Review a remarkable article on the attitude of Germany towards this country called the "German Emperor's War Scare."

The writer, who hides his identity under the nom-de-plume of "Custos," states that last Christmas Eve official Germany actually anticipated and prepared for war. The German Emperor thought he saw looming through the fog-bound channel Lord Charles Beresford's "bulldogs" with their noses pointed towards Germany. The German navy, always mobilized, expectantly waited orders to sail. In the dockyards feverish haste was displayed day and night, the men's Christmas leave was stopped, and inquiring journals in Germany began to scent trouble.

A VERITABLE WAR PANIC.

Fortunately, though a severe strain was placed upon it, the wire between London and Berlin did not break down, and after the German Ambassador in London had hastened to Berlin and assured the German Emperor that the British Admiralty was absolutely innocent of any fell design upon the German fleet, the crisis subsided, and Germany breathed freely again. The scare was over on Christmas Eve, 1904.

The Kaiser's war scare was unknown to the outside world, and unknown until quite recently to the Germans themselves. The German Government had been the victim, wittingly or unwittingly, of a veritable war panic, such as had not been witnessed in that country since Prince Bismarck nearly succeeded in administering a second death blow to the recuperative genius of France.

ENGLAND WAS NOT PREPARED.

"It may be recorded with absolute truth," continues the writer, "that nobody, from Lord Lansdowne downwards, had, or has the remotest idea of attacking Germany, with whom our relations are normal and friendly. According to all practical standards our official relations with Germany are excellent."

"Indeed, so little were we in England prepared for war at the time of the crisis that had the German navy precipitately accended upon us the possibilities are that half of our ships would have been 'holed' in much the same way that the Russians were one night last February, and the long-talked-of German invasion of England would have been given a practical test. The German navy is taught to attack first. Had it, under the influence of fear or panic, done so in the week before Christmas, it might have gone hard with England, and a new chapter in the world's history would have been opened."

PRELIMINARY STEP TO HOSTILITIES.

Turning to the cause of the scare, "Custos" states that the reasons were threefold. The first was an article in "Vanity Fair," which the German Government considered to be

inspired; and the second another article in The Army and Navy Gazette, which appears to have been regarded as equivalent to the German official service organ, which of course it is not. The Army and Navy Gazette article was generally regarded as heralding war. Then came the climax—the redistribution of the British navy.

"This very natural and wise step was immediately construed in Berlin as denoting the preliminary steps to hostilities. The withdrawal of four ships from the Mediterranean it was thought, could signify nothing else than that England desired to concentrate an overwhelming force near Germany in order to pounce down upon the inferior German fleet and effect its total destruction."

ENGLAND GERMANY'S FOE.

"The alarm at Potsdam was great. The German Emperor made official diplomatic inquiries as to the significance of the 'singular' move on the part of England, and in a roundabout way England was asked whether she intended to attack Germany or not. Needless to say, the most reassuring answers were given by Great Britain, and gradually, but only gradually, the German Government came to the conclusion that it had been the victim of a hoax. As January wore on the tension subsided, and in Berlin Court society the affair soon became the subject of polite conversation, and very soon the whole pother leaked out."

Discussing the third cause, the writer refers to the fact that for the last ten years all German writers on politics—and they are many—have taught that England is Germany's foe, and latterly that an invasion of England is a practical undertaking. It is pardonable, he concludes, if Germans thought England was about to depart from her own insular traditions by means of the redistribution scheme.

REDISTRIBUTED THE FLEET.

The naval correspondent of the London Daily Chronicle states that the actual facts of the case, so far as they can be gleaned, are as follows:—When Admiral Fisher returned to power at the Admiralty his first act was to put into being a scheme which he had long considered desirable and necessary for the British navy as a whole. The old arrangements of the British fleet were based almost entirely upon the necessities of Nelson in the great war with France. These arrangements have been carefully adhered to with the conservatism inherent in the British navy.

Since those days Germany has arisen as an entirely new naval power. Russia has increased her armament, and France is no longer the only possible enemy. Seeing that things were in this position the arrangement of the British fleet, contemplating nothing but a war with France, or a possible war with Russia, which had practically no ships to fight in any European waters, was absurd. Consequently, Admiral Fisher redistributed the fleet upon an up-to-date plan, which would be just as effective against any nation as against Germany.

CHECKMATED GERMANY.

When the new distribution of the fleet took place it was connected by Germans with the Rosyth base, and there is every reason to believe that the Kaiser personally interested himself in the matter, being assured that the change in the disposition of our ships rendered useless the trump card which Germany had hitherto held, with her fleet in home waters, it was always possible for Germany, in the event of strained relations, to play this trump card by a naval demonstration, to which we could not well have replied without precipitating war.

The German Emperor—so the story goes—made representations to our government about the double menace of Rosyth and the new distribution of the fleet, and his remarks are believed to have been couched in very strong terms. In addition there was a suspicion that Germany might throw in her lot with the Russians, though to this story there is no known foundation.

RELATIONS UNDOUBTEDLY STRAINED.

However, at the time of the Dogger Bank incident diplomatic relations between England and Germany were undoubtedly strained, and the Germans, when we mobilized our fleet, mobilized theirs. In England it was believed that these demonstrations were in connection with the Russian Baltic fleet, and this opinion was cultivated by the government. As a matter of fact, there was never the slightest possibility or probability of any eventualities between the British fleet and Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron. A grave suspicion was entertained that the Ger-

mans might play their trump card and either make a naval demonstration or actually seize what would have been a favorable opportunity. On their part the Germans honestly believed that the British fleet intended to attack them. The Channel fleet left Gibraltar with sealed orders specifically mentioned the German fleet, and war with Germany was then expected.

An impression prevailed that the German fleet was at sea looking for our ships. For this reason some of the submarines were sent to Dover to guard the Straits against any possible rush by the German vessels.

FIGHT WITH DEATH.

Miller Caught in the Whirling Machinery.

Garden Hill, Ont., Feb. 15.—It is not likely that Mr. Hoover, a miller, of this place, will soon forget his terrible struggle with death while jammed to a whirling shafting in the mill of Mr. J. D. Gray. On Monday Mr. Hoover was making his usual trip of inspection in the mill, which took him to the top floor, where there are nine round reels, run by a line shaft and gearing. In some way Mr. Hoover's coat caught on a set screw on this shaft, and in an instant he was whirled with his back to the gearing. Mr. Hoover is a powerful man, and by a great exertion of strength he managed to brace himself so as not to be drawn into the machinery, while the belt still continued to slip around the shafting.

In this position he called loudly for help and succeeded in attracting the attention of a ten-year-old boy named Rowes, whom he instructed to go down stairs and stop the machinery, explaining to the lad how to do it. Young Rowes did his best, but was not strong enough to accomplish his purpose, and returned to the top floor, where Hoover was still struggling to prevent himself from being drawn into the machinery. There was a long slat of wood about seven feet long lying near and this Rowes handed to Hoover, who, using it with one hand, managed to push off the eight-inch driving belt and stop the machinery.

Released from his perilous position Mr. Hoover was almost completely exhausted by his half-hour's struggle but was uninjured beyond a few bruises. His coat and vest, however, which were caught in the machinery, were torn to shreds. Mr. Hoover has been a mill operative for the past 28 years, and this is the first accident that has ever befallen him. Needless to say, he feels exceedingly thankful to have escaped so well from such a dangerous situation.

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B. C. POLITICS.

Not so Much Pomp at Opening of the Legislature.

MINISTRY SEEMS SAFE FOR PRESENT SESSION.

The Party Leaders Compared.

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 10.—The second session of the tenth parliament of British Columbia was opened yesterday afternoon (the 9th) with the usual formalities by His Honor the Lieut.-Governor. The event had special interest from the fact that it is probably the last occasion upon which Sir Henri Joly de Lothbiniere will perform the somewhat stately duties imposed upon the King's representative in connection with the opening of the legislature. In spite of the deep regard in which Sir Henri is held here, and notwithstanding the utter absence of friction with his advisers, his residence in the west has been somewhat chequered. The serious illness of Lady Joly during a considerable portion of the time, coupled with his own infirmities, has detracted from the enjoyment which his tenure of office would have otherwise afforded. The subsequent death of Lady Joly has, of course, made of his post one of "lonely splendor." It is understood that he will not seek a second term, but will, upon the conclusion of his duties next spring, return to his seigneurie in Quebec. Who his successor will be remains to be determined. There is little doubt but that Senator Templeman could have the post did he so desire, but his friends say he will not accept it, preferring to remain in active politics.

Another noteworthy feature of the opening had also to do with the Governor. It was the woeful weeding out of naval uniforms which in days past were wont to lend brilliancy and distinction to the staff. The withdrawal of the larger warships from Esquimalt compelled the reduction of the personal suite of His Honor at the opening to the officers of the Egeria, Bonaventure and Sugarwater, together, of course, with the usual quota from the Royal Engineers, Royal Garrison Artillery and the militia regiments.

MINISTRY SEEMS SAFE.

The government has conducted its business in such a quiet and reserved way since the last session that little is heard in speculation as to the business to be conducted in this. Notwithstanding however, the narrow margin upon which the government carries on its business and passes its measures, little heed need be paid to the prognostications always heard at the beginning of a session of the probable defeat of the government. The latter is maintained in power by the votes of the two Socialist members, Messrs. Williams and Hawthornthwaite, but it is not conceivable that they would withdraw their support from the McBride Government in order to aid the present Opposition. The session of last year engendered great bitterness between the Liberals and the Socialists—a bitterness which seems only to have intensified during the interval. In the meantime Mr. Hawthornthwaite is getting legislation put on the schedule books reflecting his views, and he is not likely to forego that privilege as long as it lies in his power to retain it.

The Socialist chief, too, has a strong personal admiration for the premier, and at a time when the first minister was regarded as a mere negative quantity in the politics of the country, he appraised him at a different valuation entirely, and rated him as the smartest politician in British Columbia. And this in a province which contains men like Sir Hibbert Tupper and Joseph Martin.

It is only within the last few months that people have begun to wonder whether they have not been mistaken in their estimate of the premier, and if, after all, the Socialist leader was not nearer the truth than were they, Mr. McBride

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has held his party together in a manner which has surprised friend and foe. He started with the terrible handicap of having assisted to depose a government composed almost entirely of old line Conservatives like Col. Prior and D. M. Elberts—men who hold behind him the party machine while Mr. McBride has been depending largely for his success on Liberal votes. He had to wear down and in some cases beat down the rebellious elements in the party who could not forget these things. The same elements are represented in a dozen or more members who sit behind him today and who frequently make wry faces at the medicine he prescribes. It is these elements upon which the Liberals depend for assistance when the time comes to overturn the government chariot. Yet the more experienced of them know the hope is vain. The party whip is at last in evidence in British Columbia, and it is as inexorable and as exacting as in the older provinces.

TWO LEADERS COMPARED.

Yet the Premier's methods are full of what might be termed "benevolent deceit."

No one in Canada so well understands or so effectively employs the gentle art of "jolly." He is in that sense an understudy of the late Sir Colin Macdonald, though lacking the great constructive genius of that statesman. Deputations leave his apartments in the Legislative Buildings not quite satisfied that they have received any pledge of value, but with an unexplainable sense of pleasure, almost of satisfaction. In debate, no one can so effectively talk all about his subject and say nothing definite as can the Premier, and in private he adopts very similar tactics, evidently believing that he who makes the fewest pledges minimizes his future difficulties.

The Premier and the leader of the Opposition are the direct antithesis of one another. The Premier is intensely human, big, and apparently frank, his physical attributes and his weaknesses like those of a man. In fact, he is a perfect type of a class numerous enough in British Columbia to have a secret society of their own—the Native Sons of British Columbia, generosity, prodigality, an avoidance of that which is staid and circumscribed, Bohemianism—all these are articles of faith in the society mentioned. "Dick" McBride is the high priest of that creed.

The leader of the members opposite him, is as different in temperament as could be well imagined. Jas. A. Macdonald, had he lived a few decades ago, would have been a Covenantanter. Born in a more fortunate age, when freedom of worship has removed the incentives to the life they cherished, he still lives his politics and his leadership very seriously. To the round, jolly boyish face of the Premier he opposes a profile as hard in its outlines and as unmovable as that of an ascetic. When the Premier thunders in his somewhat bombastic style, Macdonald views him through protruding eyes as of a child viewing the noisy inauguration of the Chinese New Year festival. It is in committee that the Leader of the Opposition is at his best, and makes the gallery spectator feel that he is in a class of his own in the House. He is a great logician. His mastery of the art of analysis is something to remember. When he starts after the Attorney-General, particularly on a legal or mining measure—matters on which he is most familiar, the Government orders up all the reserves. Sometimes he seems to convince the Attorney-General himself against his will, so that he is compelled to shake his head, and abandon all attempts to answer his arguments.

Mr. Macdonald's weakness lies in a certain reserve, or shyness, which is all the more noticeable in contrast with the hail-fellow-well-met manner of the Premier. His supporters are all proud of him, but they often wish he could unbend occasionally for the good of the party.

CATARRH, PNEUMONIA, CONSUMPTION.

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After exercising or bathing; when the pores are open and the skin is in a glow, do not rush out into the open air or into sudden changes of temperature. Severe colds are taken unless good judgment is exercised at such times.

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