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**EDITORIALS**

There is a growing inclination among former Dreadnought Canadians to talk tolerantly, if not enthusiastically, about putting Canadian cruisers on the Pacific to defend Canada's western coast. Sir Richard McBride, for example, who denounced the Liberals last session for opposing a subsidy to the British government for three super-dreadnought war vessels, to be added to the North Sea fleet, where there already is a superabundance of such ships, has recently "discussed" with the Borden government the "question of naval defence on the Pacific," and has said he was satisfied "adequate steps would be taken." If this remark is warranted, it means that Sir Richard and the government have made up their minds to abandon their own North Sea Dreadnought contribution policy and adopt the Pacific cruiser policy of the Laurier ministry. Little credit is due to them for belated action that ought to have been taken three years ago.

From other directions come foreshadowings of an agreement between Canada and Australia about British naval defence on the Pacific Ocean. Five years ago such an agreement was entered into by these two Dominions, with the approval if not at the suggestion

of the British Admiralty. Any agreement now possible must in its main features be a renewal of the one broken off by the Borden government three years ago. In 1910 each Dominion started preparing to carry it out, and the Laurier government submitted to Parliament a Naval Service Act under which the Niobe and the Rainbow are still in commission as ships of war. By all means let us have a renewal of the agreement, and have under it a fleet of Canadian cruisers to police the Pacific in co-operation with Australia and New Zealand. Too much time has already been lost.—Toronto Globe.

When the Laurier naval policy was before the House some of its opponents took pleasure in referring to it as the "Tin Pot" navy. It may not be generally known that these "tin pot" ships were to be of the same class as the Australian cruiser Sydney which did such grand service against the Emden and which is believed by naval experts to be the most serviceable class afloat. The Laurier naval policy called for four of these cruisers and six destroyers. Tenders had been received by the Laurier government for the construction of these ships in Canada and had they been

**NO ALUM**



**MAGIC BAKING POWDER**  
 CONTAINS NO ALUM

accepted we would have the greater portion of them today in commission and probably wearing some of the halo stuff which the Sydney carries so grandly.

The tenders received by the Laurier government were not "pigeon-holed," but were held in suspense until the results of the impending election was known. When the Borden government came into power, in September, 1911, the tenders were dropped and all talk of a navy set aside for over a year, or until December, 1912. When they did take up the question it was in the form of a money contribution—the last thing Britain needed for it she not now financing the world in spite of the war. In the meantime Australia went ahead with the plans which Canada turned down and who will get up and say today that Australia has a "tin pot" navy. Laurier was right.

**BOMBS HIT ZEPPELIN WORKS.**

Berne, Switzerland, Nov. 30.—Latest reports received here say that four of the bombs dropped by British aviators at Friedrichshafen last week struck the Zeppelin works there.

The germ causing gangrene has been discovered by two surgeons in Paris, who have prepared a serum to counteract it.

**BATTLEFIELD PHILOSOPHER WRITES TO FRENCH PAPER**

WHAT IT IS LIKE TO HAVE BULLETS CONTINUALLY FLYING ROUND YOUR HEAD—SOLDIER MUST BECOME STOICALLY CALM IF HE IS TO BE OF SERVICE.

"War is not vastly different in reality from the fantastic idea that I had always had of it. I may say that I have not been greatly startled by anything I have seen and heard so far. We receive our rations regularly and in abundance, and the only fault that could be found with them is that they lack considerably in variety. . . . Between the battles (and I have seen so far two engagements), we change our positions, study out the strategic possibilities, move on at night, and sleep as we can—in a ditch, under a wagon or not at all. Happily, water is plentiful and we have developed a remarkable ability for discovering hidden springs.

"Of course, we never know whether we are to be permitted to rest where we are or whether we must depart without warning. The orders come, in the briefest form, and they are forthwith obeyed, always without the slightest knowledge of the general plan of the campaign. It is this necessity for being continually on the 'qui vive' that prevents our bathing or freshening our attire, resulting in a filthy condition that would be rather frightful under other circumstances. I am constantly astonished that no epidemic breaks out, and must believe that the life in the open air purifies everything. We freeze at night and stifle during the day, and yet there is no rheumatism! We cook our food over wood fires, like savages, and sometimes go without two or three meals in succession, because there is no time to build a fire. In this case, however, we do not touch the canned cooked food that we carry, for every one realizes how necessary that may become at some future time as emergency ration.

"As to battles, they are exactly what I always thought them. An infernal racket, galloping horses bearing officers with dispatches (that is my own role), shells bursting on all sides, and so on, but so much of it really not holding one's attention at all. Even the horses do not shy or bolt, and that proves that there is truly nothing heroic in remaining calm. As I have figured it out, it is a simple matter; the less one thinks about what is going on, the better for him, for such reflection is a fatigue, and one has enough other fatigues to support as it is. And then, too, we are running about the battlefield in the thick of dangers, and seeing constantly the wounded, and the brutality and brutishness of war. If one is in a hurry, these things do not trouble him; if he has any time to spare, he gives his aid calmly.

"In four days of the battle, I have not yet seen a German. That, too, I had rather expected: the two armies are so far from each other. Even at the infantry outposts, where I had to go with or-

ders at 7 o'clock one evening, although I was met by a storm of Prussian bullets, and though they whistled about my ears for three exceedingly disagreeable minutes, yet it was impossible for me even to discover whence they came, for night had fallen already. The men themselves, after a whole day of the fusillade, said to me: 'We have not seen them; we have only found their dead.'

"But they are not all savages, these Prussians. Sometimes they have cared for and sent back our wounded, in order not to be encumbered with them. Other times, it is said, they kill them, but then, every wounded man left upon the battlefield runs the risk of dying. There is no need of getting into a frenzy over such things, or of regarding them with too much fatalism. One does well to preserve his presence of mind for more needful occasions.

"We live in a time so different from all others that it is necessary, in order to suffer as little as possible, to take for oneself a brand-new point of view, adapted to one's environments. War is barbarous. Recall the old stories of barbarism, and take upon yourself the simple viewpoint of the savage. Think in no other way until you have some appreciable period of rest and tranquility. Tell yourself to expect nothing better, and you will be doubly pleased with it when it comes; otherwise you will be disillusioned.

"For my part, that method succeeds with me admirably, and I feel myself as firm upon my two feet as a rock. If I have five minutes, I sleep—no matter where; where I find water that can be depended on, I drink; when I know that next day's rations have arrived, I finish those of today. I believe nothing that I hear. St. Thomas was a credulous infant beside me. I help others to maintain their common sense by the example of my own stolid efficiency. I am, in truth, another man; I live without trying to understand the how or the why. . . .

"Let us both be fatalists, but not neuroathenics. It is not a moment for grand phrases. It will be time to talk that way when one has some hope of a to-morrow.

"I am here at the home of an honest peasant of the wealthier sort, who has received us most hospitably, and to whose generosity I am indebted for this pen and these two sheets of paper. This morning I managed to buy a bit of powdered chocolate and boiled myself a cup of it, with milk. What a luxury it was! And how comfortable I am here! But these things will last only at the pleasure of Fortune. I shall give myself no anxiety on that or any other score, and I urge you with all insistence to accept the same point of view."—Translation made for The Literary Digest.

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