

The victor will bring back to port the fragments of his fleet; the vanquished will not send back a single ship.'

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After showing that both Germany and Britain have framed their actual plans of action in accordance with the above accepted German programme, the writer emphasises the point that battle is inevitable, and that the German fleet must perforce come out of its shelter. 'What, then, does this fleet wish to do, and what is it able to do?' he asks. 'According to one of the most competent of the military writers of the *Lectures pour tous*, the German fleet, in spite of its tactics at the beginning of the war, must come out of its refuge at a given moment. It must do so, says he, for a material reason: because, in default of the invasion of England, hindered by the simultaneous occurrence of the two wars which had only been provided for separately, it will be very necessary that Germany should attempt to open up for herself a means of supply. It must do so for a moral reason: because the navy is the great idea of the reign of William the Second and if the German people agree to await for the naval action a chosen hour he would not allow the abdication, pure and simple, without combat, of that navy which was to have assured their future upon the waves. When will this sortie take place? According to a saying of Admiral Tirpitz, naval questions should be settled by practical men: the sortie of the German fleet will be carried out as a practical business: and it is being prepared for as such. The unexpected activity of the German submarines is one preface energetically carried out: the capture of Antwerp and Zeebrugge is another. What is being prepared behind the protection of the German mines? Very probably a violent offensive, following the regular German method, an offensive *en masse* which it will be necessary for the British battle fleet to ward off, which fleet also will have preserved in shelter in her well-defended ports the huge units which will oppose themselves to the attack which comes from the Elbe. Would there be any advantage in not waiting for this attack, in forcing the passage? In going, according to the expression of an English Minister, to hunt out the German ships as one would drive rats from their holes? Certainly not, replies the author of this article. It is the duty of the allied squadrons not to risk in an enterprise so dangerous the supremacy which their number gives them, says he in conclusion. British prudence has, moreover, so far disregarded every trap, in particular the last, the savage and useless bombardment, without any tactical bearing, of the coast of Yorkshire by three or four large and fast cruisers. The German Admiralty hoped without doubt that under pressure of public opinion the English fleet would be compelled to pursue the attackers, who by an adroit flight would have drawn it straight to some mine-field, to some rendez-vous of submarines, but the English fleet did not fall into the snare. . . . And if, contrary to expectation, the German fleet should not come out? Then the clearly marked advantage of the allied squadrons would require them to observe the same tactics: that would be a victory without fighting, a victory complete and decisive the result of which would be as fruitful as one could desire. But that hypothesis is more than doubtful. The recent declarations of Admiral Tirpitz announce clearly the German plan formerly expounded by Admiral Breusing: "the German fleet will go out when it judges it useful": and the allied squadrons will do well to keep unceasing ward.'

On his death-bed, Lord Brampton, the famous English judge, through his wife, sent the following message to a convert friend: 'In the Catholic Church I have perfect conviction for my intellect and peace for my heart. I believe all that the Church teaches, and reject all that she rejects: In her communion I trust to live and die.'

The Boy Proof Watch at 5/- is a watch that no man need be ashamed of, especially when it will keep time to a tick. You should see them at Smith and Laing's, Invercargill.

THE SIXTH REINFORCEMENTS

OFF TO TRENTHAM.

The Otago and Southland men for the Sixth Reinforcements left Dunedin on Saturday for Trentham. At 10 o'clock the men were mustered at the Garrison Hall, where Captain Fraser, assisted by Lieutenant Keligher, was in charge. After the roll had been called, and other preliminary work had been done, the men marched to the Octagon, where they were addressed from the Town Hall steps by his Worship the Mayor, Very Rev. Father Coffey, and the Anglican Primate (Bishop Nevill).

Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., who spoke immediately after the Mayor, said he had much pleasure in being present to say good-bye to those men who were going forward to defend our hearths and our homes. They bore the honor of the country as they journeyed from our shores, and we hoped they would never forget the honor that was conferred upon them. They were going to form a part of that great army which was engaged at the present time in fighting the greatest battle the world had ever seen. We promised them as far as we could that those whom they left behind would never forget them. The time had passed when it could be said that a veteran who had fought for his country would die in a benevolent institution. From the head of the Government down to the humblest citizen of the Dominion we would see to it that no man who went forth to bear arms in defence of our country would suffer on his return. We promised them that those whom they left behind and whom in the natural course of events they would be supporting, would not be allowed to suffer because they had gone forth to defend our homes and our country. He advised them never to lose their individuality, never to lose their personality. Men sometimes were prone when they got into crowds to forget that they were individuals, and to take upon themselves the personality of the crowd. We wanted them to preserve their individuality to the very end. Because they wore the King's uniform they were not to think that liberty meant license; and he asked them, especially not to miss the boat. We were sending them forward with our blessings to fight in a great and glorious cause. If the war had done nothing else it had done this one good thing. It had brought us all closer together and made us better to recognise the great Godhead and Lordship of the God of battles. (Applause.) He hoped the words that had been expressed by his Worship the Mayor would be fulfilled. We feared that some of them might not see these shores again, and that was what made the parting more sad. Still we hoped that the great majority would return, and that then we should be able to show that they had done a noble work for us, and that we would do a noble work for them. He could not stand that carping criticism. Because a man who had gone and fought for us had made a mistake on his return we condemned him. We should not condemn him, but do our best to lift him up and recognise what he had done for us. For an example he referred them to his countryman, Michael O'Leary, who had shot five Germans, then gone on and shot two more, and brought in three prisoners with him, earning the V.C. That was an example to follow, and if they did there was no fear but that in six months' time, or probably less, we would see the end of this terrible war. He asked God to bless them and watch over them, and bring them back safe to this beloved country of ours.

Mgr. Edward Patrick Roche, the Rector of the Cathedral at St. John's, Newfoundland, has been appointed successor to the late Archbishop. Mgr. Roche has acted as Administrator to the diocese for the past few months. He is said to be the youngest Archbishop in the world, being only forty.

Hay Rakes and Pitch Forks should be light but strong, then good work can be done with much less labor. Smith and Laing's, Invercargill, is the place to get these things....