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**FACTS ABOUT
JAPAN'S NAVY**

INTERESTING STATEMENT OF
THE MARINE STRENGTH OF
THE MIKADO.

TOKIO, March 8.—Some reliable figures are now to hand showing the present strength of the Japanese Navy compared with its strength when the war broke out. Details are appended but the totals may be briefly stated viz.: One hundred and fifty-seven vessels of all descriptions, representing a tonnage of 282,242 tons before the war and 204 vessels and 515,982 tons at the present day. Further scrutiny of the figures show that Japan today possesses more than twice the number of battleships she had before the war, a third as many more armored cruisers, nearly three times as many destroyers, but three fewer torpedo-boats.

Her naval losses during the war included two battleships, the Hatsuse and Yamashiro, eight cruisers, the Takashige, Yoshino, Satsuyama, Mikayo, Helyon, Atago, Oshima and Kaimona, two destroyers, the Akatsuki and Hayata, and seven torpedo-boats, on a total of nineteen vessels and 46,616 tons. On the other hand, as against the two battleships torpedoed by the Russians, the Japanese bagged at Port Arthur and in the battle of the Japan sea five battleships, representing 62,524 tons, i. e., the Orel, now named the Iwami; the Peresviet (Sagami), Poltava (Tango), Retyvian (Hizen), and Pobeda (Su). In addition there were taken eleven unarmored cruisers, 11,276 tons, and five destroyers, a total of twenty-one vessels, representing 135,540 tons. Thus the net gain without further building on Japan's part is seen to be 88,924 in tonnage, the discrepancy between these divisions being due to the fact that Japan's chief gains were in battleships and cruisers.

Critics of the expansion programme are naturally asking why, in the face of these figures, which indicate an advance of fully 90 per cent, which include new construction, the Government should persist in making appropriations for the Army and Navy more than 36 per cent of the total national expenditure for the next fiscal year. Leading financiers and business men do not hesitate to point out that so long as the above disparity is maintained the country must expect to invite foreign distrust, while the forth-coming attempts to negotiate a new loan are likely to encounter no small opposition, and even if successful will prove at only at the cost of a sacrifice of prestige in the shape of some form of hypochondria.

The following figures are given: Strength when the war commenced, battleships, six, 84,652 tons; armored cruisers, eight, 73,982 tons; other cruisers, forty-four 111,470 ton; destroyers, nineteen, 6159 tons; torpedo-boats, eighty, 7199 tons. Total 157 ships, 283,742 tons.
Built during or since the war—Battleships, four, 71,500 tons; viz: the Katori, Kashima, Aki and Satsuma, the last two of which are receiving their armaments. Armored cruisers, four, 56,700 tons; viz: the Tsukuba, Ikoma, Kuruma and Ibuki, the last two of which are now receiving their armaments. Other cruisers, five, 7006 tons, viz: the Ton, Yodo, Mogami, etc., all of which are under construction or are receiving their armaments. Destroyers, thirty-three, 12,573 tons. Torpedo boats, five, 760 tons. Total, fifty-one; 148,569 tons.
Present force—Battleships, 13, 191,381 tons. Armored cruisers, 12, 130,683 tons. Other cruisers, 47,165,252 tons. Destroyers, fifty-five, 29,508 tons. Torpedo boats, seventy-seven, 7258 tons. Total, 204 ships; 515,982 tons.

Fine Job Printing, Star Office.

**BRITISH COURT VS.
AMERICAN COURT**

WILFLEY NOW ATTACKED THROUGH A DECISION GIVEN BY THE
BRITISH COURT IN SHANGHAI—WATCH CLUB DECLARED A
SWINDLE AND WILFLEY IS ACCUSED OF HAVING GIVEN IT
HIS COURT'S PROTECTION.

The British Court in Shanghai has just given a decision against the Shanghai Watch Club, which Judge Wilfley is accused of upholding. The British Court declares the concern a lottery and a swindle, and, though it was ousted from the Philippines, the charge is made that it is doing an immense business in China under the protection of the American court.

The Chinese Gazette of Shanghai has the following editorial comment on the decision just given:
There will be little disposition, we imagine, to question the broad justice of the verdict given in the British Court today in the Watch Club case, however much we may regret the fact that so far no one has been successfully brought to book for that most audacious swindle. The evidence against the prisoner Thomas was not of a kind that a Shanghai jury would be expected to convict upon, and it was shown pretty conclusively during the lengthy trial that the man in the dock had been really more sinned against than sinning. He was more of a fool than a rogue, and anyway no conspiracy was proved, while it was conclusively shown that the Watch Club came rapidly to its death in his unskillful hands. The real culprits were not being tried because they, fortunately for themselves, do not come within the reach of the long arm of the British law, which has an awkward way of tripping up the cleverest tricksters of this character. The trial has been a long and wearisome one for both the jury and the judge, and though failing to prove his case against the accused there is no doubt that the learned Crown Advocate has done well in instituting proceedings the first moment he found any British subject connected with the swindling scheme by which hundreds, if not thousands, of people all over China have been cheated in the most barefaced fashion out of their dollars. We trust that the exposure means the end of the various so-called "Clubs" now operating from Shanghai. It is clearly "up to the American" officials concerned to take steps to free the American name in Shanghai of the imputation left upon it by the whole course of the trial, particularly when it is borne in mind that the learned Judge expressly gives it as his opinion that the Watch Club was a rotten and fraudulent concern from its inception. However readily that very crafty individual Black may have hitherto been able to hoodwink his dupes, Messrs. Dooley and Thomas, and throw dust into the public eyes, it is quite a different matter for Mr. American name in China.

DECIDES AGAINST ANNA GOULD.
PARIS, Feb. 21.—The Court of Appeals has confirmed the judgment of the lower court ordering Count Boni de Castellane and Mme. Anna Gould, who obtained a divorce from the Count last year, jointly to pay to Vera Nemidoff, an opera singer, \$24,000 for certain jewels the Count purchased from her prior to the divorce.
Madame Gould entered the defense that she was an entire stranger to the transaction and had never seen the jewels. The court laid down the principle that the jewels presumably had been purchased for the use of the buyer's wife.

Arthur Bassett, the District Attorney of Judge Wilfley's Court to have his extremely curious or foolish part in the whole discreditable business dragged out in the way it has been, especially in view of the constant public boasting that the new Judge and his District Attorney had done so much to clear out all shady Americans from Shanghai and elevate the national name in the eyes of both Chinese and foreigners. It is perfectly incomprehensible to us that a man of Mr. Bassett's far-reaching power of prosecution and keenness could ever have acted as he has done in this matter or expressed the opinion he is recorded in the evidence to have given as to the locality of the so-called Watch Club's operations and to have not only sanctioned but positively encouraged its continuance. As far back as July last year we denounced it in these columns as a lottery, if nothing worse, and the ingenious Mr. Black then gave us the information, and challenged further criticism, by proving to us that the American District Attorney and Judge Wilfley lent countenance to the operations of this most dishonest concern, although in the Philippines and in the United States itself this particular species of "get rich" swindle had long been under the ban as we showed by extracts from the Manila papers at the time. It is also a matter for enquiry why the Municipal Police did not of their own initiative start a prosecution long ago against the promoters and managers of the lottery and shut it up as a common gambling machine in the heart of the Settlement, seeing how active they have been in prosecuting and raiding other gambling institutions far outside the Municipal area. But they were doubtless disarmed by the magnificent "bluffing" of Mr. Harry Black, as was the unfortunate Mr. Dooley, who after all is the heaviest loser, though not the one with whom the community will have most sympathy, because of his fatuous faith in believing that such a rapid road to fortune would be handed over to him upon such easy terms by the plausible and ingenious Mr. Black. The public, which has followed the case with extreme interest, will now anxiously await to see what the American authorities will do in the matter, for they must move promptly in order to reassure the Chinese as to the genuineness of all the recent high professions of Secretary Taft and of Judge Wilfley and his friends about the clearing out of shady American citizens and the suppression of methods which brought obloquy on the American name in China.

WANTS A LICENSE.
Suen Sing Tai has filed a petition with the Board of License Commissioners for a wholesale liquor license for the store fourth from the mauka Walkiki corner of Hotel and Maunakea streets on Hotel street. The matter will come up at the next meeting of the Board, time for which has not yet been set.

SUBMARINE BOAT FLOATED.
ANNAPOLIS, Md., Feb. 21.—The submarine Viper, which has been around on Thomas Point, 10 miles down the Chesapeake Bay from here, since Wednesday, was floated by the torpedo-boat Bagley at high tide this afternoon and reached the Naval Academy about 7 o'clock tonight. The Government tug Standish is endeavoring to float the gunboat Hist.

THE MARYLAND'S GUNNERY.
SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 21.—Admiral Sebree, commanding the fleet of American warships which arrived here yesterday, laughed at the idea that the big cruisers Tennessee and Washington had any difficulty in coming through the Straits of Magellan.
It was learned that the Maryland made the best showing at target practice in Magdalena Bay, with the Tennessee a close second.

**GREAT BRITAIN
WILL NOT DISARM**

SCANT ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN
BY GOVERNMENT LEADERS TO
ADVOCATES OF DISARMAMENT.

LONDON, Mar. 2.—The radical members of the House of Commons, who are agitating for a broad measure of disarmament, received scant support from the cabinet in the house this afternoon, when they introduced a resolution inviting the government to take action in support of their views.
Herbert M. Asquith, chancellor of the exchequer, who, in the continued absence of Premier Campbell-Bannerman, on account of illness, was the spokesman for the government, said that while he sympathized with the general desire for a reduction in the growth of naval expenditure here and in other countries, the liberal government had gone as far as it safely could.

Great Britain's naval position, Mr. Asquith maintained, was one of unsalutary supremacy, and if Great Britain was to retain command of the sea that position must be safeguarded against all contingency.
The government believed it to be its duty to maintain the present two-power standard in the matter of naval strength.

Alluding to numerous references to the naval activity of Germany, Mr. Asquith declared the government did not view with apprehension a naval expansion which corresponded to economic and advancing needs of that country, the growing population of which was becoming more and more dependent on overseas sources for its food and raw material. Although there was no express compact with Germany, there was the best reason to hope that the two peoples, year by year, were advancing nearer and nearer to a complete mutual understanding.

Mr. Asquith insisted that the naval policy of Great Britain was purely defensive. The British government not only did not want to take the lead in increasing expenditure, but, on the contrary, it wished to do everything in its power to prevent a new spirit in competitive shipbuilding between the great naval powers. The estimates showed, Mr. Asquith said, that the government had no intention of building "against programmes which exist merely on paper."
"I believe," the chancellor said, in conclusion, "that I can say with perfect certainty that there is no great power in the world which looks at this moment with animosity, jealousy, or misgiving upon the navy of Great Britain being maintained on what we call the two-power standard. Beyond that limit we have neither the temptation nor the inclination to go."

THE HAYTIAN REVOLUTION.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—A denial was made at the German Embassy today that German firms have been contributing in a material way to the revolutionary movement in Hayti. Count Hatzfeldt said the Foreign Office at Berlin knew nothing of any participation of German firms in the revolutionary movement.
Now that the late revolutionary movement in Hayti is dying out, the United States gunboat Paducah has been ordered from Haytian waters to Guantanamo.

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