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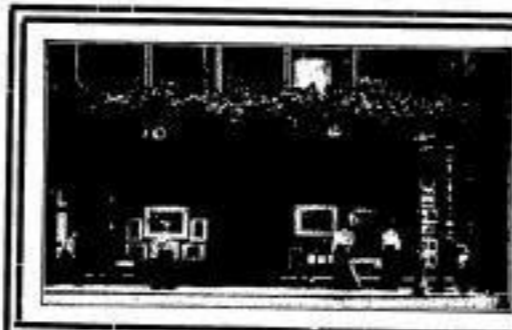
## CIVIC TRAINING.

(From our London correspondent.)

When visiting Clifton a short time ago King Edward took occasion to congratulate the school on the training it provided in "civics." At Clifton that branch of duty is regarded as a definite part of the ordinary curriculum; and, just as it is endeavoured to make boys into good scholars and good sportsmen, so it is endeavoured to make them into good citizens. This aim is so seldom included in the studies of the public schools that it attracted the notice and earned the commendation of the King. Until very recently even the study of modern history, from which some knowledge of civic responsibility might be imbibed subconsciously, was rarely included in the public school curriculum. In place of the history of modern nations and the growth of political tendencies a grounding was given merely in ancient history, with the result that boys went to the Universities, into the Services, and into business with a knowledge of the history of their own country that was fragmentary and often dated back to their private-school days and with a complete ignorance of the affairs of England's great neighbours. Not only was this the case, but the absence of historical training was frequently defended on the ground that too early an acquaintance with these matters tended to create prejudices and that it was better to live in ignorant bliss than in premature partiality of knowledge. Recently, however, a great advance has been made. Most public schools are able to boast of a modern side, embracing all sides of modern culture, and of a classical side stripped of narrowing limitations. History is beginning to be taught in England as it has long been taught in America, not quite with a view to minimizing the greatness of the mother-country, yet with a desire to enlarge the conceptions of boys and girls on the larger world problems which have reacted on the mother-country.

To add to this valuable knowledge some conception of what citizenship means, some conception of the duties and responsibilities to which most Englishmen are sooner or later called, is a praiseworthy ambition. It is really astonishing to reflect that the keen political genius of the English people has, so to speak, been developed spontaneously, has been cultivated instinctively yet has matured consistently. But, in spite of all that the unguided genius of the nation has achieved, civic duties are growing so complex and so insistent that some sort of systematic preparation for them seems a public duty. In this country we are very much afraid of militarism, of Chauvinism, of anything that appears to distend the patriotic sense beyond the well-balanced, practical conception of previous epochs. The attitude, not quite sincere and therefore not quite cynical, which implies that politics are able to look after themselves and that the politicians are able to progress independently of individual effort within the electorate, is undoubtedly gaining ground. It would be a pity if any undue remissness were to become evident among the mass of the electorate; but it would mean nothing short of disaster if such a standpoint were to grow general among what are called the ruling classes, among men and women who must sooner or later occupy positions of influence and power within the Empire. We are not without our fanatics who already point to the example of a luxurious, decadent, and indifferent Rome crumbling to ruin in the midst of apathy. Few of us, however, go so far in our foreboding. All that is claimed is that every effort should be made to kill incipient apathy, especially among those whose defects corrode in proportion as their virtues stimulate.

More than any training in the forms of citizenship is a training necessary in the scope of citizenship, in the greatness of the ideals that every subject of an Imperial State must cultivate before those ideals are able to be realized. It may well be complained that not enough is being done here to awaken the Imperial sense of the growing generation, to bring before them vividly the great traditions and the vast possibilities of the British Empire. Jingoism, the cocksure, aggressive attitude of the bully among nations, the self-assertiveness which falls as far short of true independence as boastfulness of eloquence—these are dangers which



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a lack of training, of the sense of proportion, render almost inevitable. Rather than that we should be branded with the vulgar stamp of such Imperialism it were better to confine our interests and ambitions to the British Isles. To instill a true conception of Imperial aims and interests, to show that an Empire is not more but less liable to prove an instrument of discord than a less powerful unitary State, to awaken an enthusiasm for the more advanced thought on international affairs, to prepare minds which should be sympathetic towards the growing ideals of universal peace and international harmony; in a word, to demonstrate that we are passing from the struggle of nationality to the consolidation of Empire, and perhaps to better things still—here is sufficient material, not without solidity, for the nascent idealism of the next few generations.

## THE BILLION CONGRESS.

(From our New York correspondent.)

In the last session of Congress money was voted with a lavish hand. The representatives of the people were but little influenced, if at all, by the many warnings addressed to them to keep the expenditure on a level with the prospective Federal revenue, and to have an eye to the looked-for deficit.

According to a report from Washington, the official figures of the Appropriation Committees of both Houses show that the total sum voted by Congress during last session was 1,008,397,543.56 dollars. Of that enormous sum: 95,382,247 dollars were for the Army; 122,663,885 for the Navy; 163,058,000 for pensions; 222,970,892 for the Post Office; and 111,958,088 for various civil services. Current contracts involved an amount of 49,443,750 dollars. Included in the above are instalments for two battleships, two steam colliers, ten torpedo-boat-destroyers, and eight submarine vessels, together with the armament for the battleships (25,700,000 dollars). The appropriations for public buildings throughout the whole of the United States amounted to 20,789,750 dollars.

Congress authorised the appointment of 16,824 new Government servants, at a yearly cost of 13,764,676 dollars. The services of 6,142 officials were dispensed with, whose aggregate salaries had amounted to 4,678,389 dollars. Of the newly appointed employes: 6,000 were seamen for the Navy, 809 officers and men were for the Marines, 3,368 were clerks and other officials in the postal service. The salaries of 129,928 Government servants were raised, at a cost of 9,146,575 dollars, viz. for 46,636 officers and men of the Navy, and 8,907 officers and men of the corps of Marines.

Compared with the last session of the 59th Congress, the total appropriations of which amounted to 920,798,143 dollars, the appropriations in the first session of the 60th Congress show an increase of 87,599,400 dollars.

## A BANK CLERK'S STRATAGEM.

It seems that it is a statutory obligation for the Bank of France to replace every note issued by a new one as soon as the number becomes illegible, and in this connection a contemporary tells a good story. A bank clerk inherited £800, which he drew in twenty £40 bank notes. These he daily tendered to the bank in a dirty condition, and received new ones in their place. As every note issued costs the French Government eightpence to produce, the clerk's attention was called to the matter. His explanation was simple. For a long time he had received no increase of salary, so he was having his revenge on the Government to the extent of 13s. 4d. a day.

## GENERAL NEWS.

### NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

#### THE "INDOMITABLE'S" RECORD VOYAGE.

(From our London correspondent.)

London, August 5.

Further details now to hand regarding the voyage of the armoured cruiser "Indomitable" from the St. Lawrence to the Solent confirm the report originally spread that the great vessel has broken every previous record for swift transatlantic passages. This report is borne out by the table I append below.

The voyage is described as having been a most enjoyable one, and the Prince of Wales, like everyone else on board, took the keenest interest in getting the very best out of the ship's engines. His Royal Highness, who is never so happy as when he is afloat, lent a willing hand at shovelling coal into the huge furnaces down in the sweltering stokehold; taking his turn alongside every other officer. This enthusiastic spirit animated every man on board, from the Prince himself to the ship's boys, and thus the "Indomitable" has fulfilled the greatest expectations of her capabilities.

I learn from an authoritative source that the actual average speed attained was 25.13 knots. During the early part of the homeward run for four hours a speed of 26.4 knots was recorded. Not one single hitch occurred from start to finish of the voyage. The phenomenal speed at which the cruiser has crossed the ocean is made all the more remarkable when it is remembered that the vessel was in no way specially prepared or lightened in order to enhance her racing powers. She carried her eight enormous 12-inch guns, a thick coat of armour, magazines filled to their utmost capacity with ammunition, and all the rest of the equipment of a modern man-of-war, able to immediately assume her place in the forefront of a naval engagement.

The following shows the speed of the "Indomitable" compared with the fastest liners afloat:—

	Distance	Average	Time
	Knots.	per hour.	D. H. M.
"Indomitable" . . . . .	1,684	25.13	2 19 0
"Lusitania" . . . . .	2,891	25.01	4 19 36
"Mauretania" . . . . .	2,890	24.86	4 20 15

The following is a comparison of the vessels in size and engine power:—

	"Indomitable."	"Lusitania" and "Mauretania"
Length . . . . .	530 ft.	790 ft.
Breadth . . . . .	78½ ft.	88 ft.
Displacement . . . . .	17,250 tons.	33,000 tons.
Horse-power . . . . .	41,000	70,000
Engines . . . . .	4 sc. turbine	4 sc. turbine.

## THE "CONVERSION" OF ENGLAND.

### FATHER VAUGHAN AND THE POPE.

Rome, August 5.

Father A. P. Doyle, rector of the Mission House in Washington, which is described as being intended for the conversion of the English-speaking people to Roman Catholicism, after having been received by the Pope, had a long audience with Cardinal Merry del Val on the result of his work.

When Father Doyle mentioned the recent action of Archbishop Bourne in sending Father Vaughan to the Mission House to prepare for the work in England, the Cardinal said: "Yes, I have read in the English papers of what Archbishop Bourne has done, and the project commends itself to me as a most feasible and practical way of putting new life into the movement for the conversion of England. The choice of Father Vaughan for the work is a most happy one. I know him well, and he has all the qualities that are most apt to secure the best results. This mission work was very close to the heart of Cardinal Vaughan in his latter years, but he had not the strength to carry out his plans completely. To Father Vaughan, however, has fallen the providential rôle of carrying to ultimate success the projects of his uncle, the Cardinal. He is a Vaughan, and he has inherited the qualities of mind and heart that will ensure success in the work."

(Continued on page 4.)