

SIR WILFRID ON THE NAVY

Liberal Leader's Amendment to Government's Naval Resolution

FLEETS ON TWO OCEANS

Advocates Manning and Maintenance by Canada of Canadian-Built Vessels

Two Dreadnought cruisers.
Six protected cruisers.
Twelve ocean destroyers.
Six submarines.
The vessels to be manned and maintained by Canada.

This, in brief, is the naval policy of the Liberal party, as enunciated in the House of Commons on Thursday by Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Instead of a policy of contribution for the building of three Dreadnoughts, Sir Wilfrid proposed that the \$35,000,000 asked for by Rt. Hon. R. L. Borden should be devoted to the immediate creation of two fleet units, one on the Atlantic and one on the Pacific coast, manned and maintained by Canadians, guarding Canada's shores and ready to co-operate with the Imperial fleet in time of stress in any part of the world.

The Liberal Amendment

Sir Wilfrid's amendment does not strike out of the Borden resolution the appropriation of \$35,000,000 "to strengthen the naval force of the empire," but declares:

(1) That the British Government has been forced to recall many vessels from distant waters for home defence.

(2) That this requires Canada to adopt a permanent program in the way of contributing to Imperial naval defence, which can best be subserved by vessels owned by Canada and equipped, manned and maintained by Canada, and built to as great extent as possible in Canada.

(3) To increase the mobility and efficiency of the Imperial navy, Canada should proceed to construct, man and maintain two fleet units, one on the Atlantic and the other on the Pacific coast.

(4) That the House regrets the failure of the government to adopt any permanent naval policy, and disapproves of a cash contribution in the absence of any emergency, preferring the plan of a Canadian navy.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on rising, was greeted with cheers which continued till he had to raise his hand for silence.

Reference to Circular

"As I rise," he said, "to present to the House the views of His Majesty's most loyal Opposition upon the measure which has been presented to it by my Rt. Hon. friend, perhaps it will not be out of place if I refer to the fact that some few months ago a document came to me, as well as to my Rt. Hon. friend, signed by some of the most important citizens of Canada, belonging to both parties, strongly urging that the subject of Imperial defence should be removed from the domain of contentious politics. This motive which animated these important and respected citizens is certainly worthy of all encomium, and, so far as I am concerned, meets altogether with my approbation. But I may be permitted to observe that if the question of Imperial defence has been introduced into the domain of contentious politics the blame is not to be imputed to anyone sitting on this side of the House. When, some three years ago, my hon. friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster) introduced this subject in a concrete form we were then in control of the House, and the House will agree with me that we did not receive his motion in any carping spirit."

The motion moved by Mr. Foster was then recited in detail.

"We received the proposition," continued Sir Wilfrid, "of my hon. friend quite sympathetically, and we suggested to him that it would be advisable to enlarge it and bring it to the broader basis of Imperial defence, in view especially of the new condition which was then and had been for some time arising in Europe. I am bound to say that our suggestion was also well received by our friends on the other side, and they in turn offered us some amendments which we were only too glad to receive and to make."

After noting that Mr. Foster's motion was passed by the unanimous voice of Parliament, Sir Wilfrid went on to say that the ink was scarcely dry upon the resolution before it was assailed from the ranks of the Conservative party—"one section affirming that the duty of Canada toward the Empire would not be properly discharged by the construction of a Canadian navy, but that the only manner in which this duty could be discharged was by contributions from the Canadian Treasury. The other section, on the contrary, protested, and continued protesting, against the very idea either of the contribution or the construction of a navy. This was introduced with a vengeance into the realm of contentious politics the question of Imperial defence, and it also let loose passions which we hoped were so easily brought to light again."

"My Right Hon. friend," Sir Wilfrid went on, "the other day, moving his resolution in terms to which I do not take exception, stated that he was animated by no other purpose than to promote the welfare of Canada and of the Empire to which we belong. And let me say to my Right Hon. friend that I am glad to meet him upon this ground. And though we may differ from him in the policy which he has presented to the House,

it is because we are firmly convinced in our consciences and our souls that the policy which we advocated is more conducive to the end which he says he has in mind than the policy which he has presented.

All Apprehensions Removed

"Sir, the country expected and waited with great impatience for the announcement to be made, and which has now been made by the Right Hon. Prime Minister after consultation with the Admiralty. Mr. Asquith, Mr. Churchill and Sir Edward Grey had again and again asserted that Britain had no enemy, that she was prepared and ready for all comers. Still there was an apprehension that somehow, somewhere, some mysterious danger was threatening Britain. And, indeed, some went so far as to say that Britain was on her knees begging for support—an assertion which surely was more calculated to wound the pride of those to whom it was addressed than to create respect for those who uttered it. All those apprehensions, however, have been removed by the document which was placed on the table of the House by my Right Hon. friend. Britain is always Britain; she bows the knee to no one; she asks no favor from anybody; she does not come here as a suppliant, still less as a mendicant; but to the inquiry of our Ministers she answered: 'Here are the facts set forth in this paper; judge for yourselves, and act as you please.' This is the language we could expect from English statesmen and the English people."

What Document Showed

"But, sir, in other respects there is cause for rejoicing. This document shows that there is no emergency, that Britain is in no danger—she is in no danger, whether imminent or prospective. But the document discloses a condition of things of which, indeed, we knew, but upon which has now been placed the sanction of official correspondence. It shows there has been going on in Europe for some years past a condition of things which, on account of the armament of the great powers, has compelled Britain to alter the strategic lines which hitherto have been essential for her security. The document disclosed that, on account of the increased naval armament, Britain, in order to maintain her security in her own waters, has been obliged to withdraw some of her naval forces from the distant seas. This, I believe, is a fair statement of what is disclosed by the document laid upon the table of my Rt. Hon. friend. In the face of this position I now ask the question: What is the duty of the House of Commons; what is the duty of the people of Canada? That is the question as I understand it."

"We have recently heard, throughout the Province of Quebec that we owe nothing to England, because in the long chapter of our history she has sacrificed our interests concerning the adjustment of the boundary between ourselves and our neighbors to the south. For my part I have often stated that in such questions British diplomacy has not shown itself to advantage. And what conclusion are we to draw from this? Are we to draw the conclusion that England was indifferent to our interests? Nothing of the kind. Are we to draw the conclusion that England desired to make no sacrifice in our interests? Still less may this be presumed. The only conclusion we can draw from that is that in these matters British diplomats were not as well informed as those of the United States in regard to every inch of ground which was in issue."

"This shows conclusively that local matters are always better dealt with by those responsible for local administration. The fact is undeniable that practically ever since we have had in our hands the conduct of our diplomatic relations Canada has suffered no sacrifice."

Sir Wilfrid went on to say that Canada has been immune from invasion from the sea ever since the treaty of Paris in 1763. "But can we say to-day that we are any longer immune from invasion by the sea?" he asked.

The Remedy Proposed

"Now, sir, I come back to the question which I put a moment ago, upon the condition disclosed by the memorandum of the Admiralty. Let me state it again. As the result of the armaments which are now going on in Europe, the margin of security, which England relies on for her own defence she has been obliged to maintain by reducing her naval forces in the outlying seas. Such is the condition, and I ask once more: What is the remedy?"

"In our humble judgment the remedy is this: That wherever in the distant seas or in the distant countries, Australia, Canada or elsewhere, a British ship has been removed to allow of concentration in European waters, if it must take place, wherever such a British ship is removed, that ship should be replaced by a ship built, equipped, manned and maintained by the country concerned."

"If the young patrons of the Empire take hold of the equipment and manning of ships to look after the distant seas, concentration can easily take place in the waters of Europe, and the British Admiralty knows what zones she has to defend. This is the Australian policy, this would be the Canadian policy, this ought to be the Canadian policy."

"I insist once more upon what is stated in the memorandum. There is no emergency. There is no prospective danger; no, I will not use that expression—I will not say if Britain were in danger—but simply if Britain were on trial, with one or two or more of the great powers of Europe, my Rt. Honorable friend must come down and ask, not \$35,000,000, but twice, three times, four times \$35,000,000! We would put at the disposal of England all the resources of Canada; there would not be a single dissenting voice!"

The Contribution Examined

"What is this contribution that we have to-day before us, and upon which we are asked to vote? It is big in money, it is big in figures. Is it as big otherwise as it ought to be? You give Britain two or three Dreadnoughts to be paid for by Canada, but to be equipped, manned and main-

tained by Britain. Oh, did I say manned by Britain? I must qualify that statement. In justice to my Right Hon. friend I must qualify that statement, because he told us that he had secured from the Imperial authorities the privilege of having Canadian officers serve on those ships.

"Oh, ye To y jingoes! Is that the amount of the sacrifice you are prepared to make? You are ready to furnish Admirals, Rear-Admirals, Commodores, Captains, officers of all grades, plumes, feathers and gold lace, but you leave it to England—to old England—to supply the bone and sinew on board those ships! You say that these ships shall bear Canadian names. That will be the only thing Canadian about them. You hire somebody to do your work. In other words, you are ready to do anything except the fighting. Is that, sir, the true policy, the Canadian policy?"

"Mr. Speaker, it is not money that Britain wants at this moment. Britain never was wealthier than she is at the present time; her coffers are overflowing. What she wants are the hearts, the brains and the brawn of her subjects all over the world. It has been stated, I hope it will prove true, that this generous contribution of \$35,000,000 to the Imperial treasury will create a deep impression in Europe amongst the great powers. I hope it is true, but would not the impression be much greater yet if, instead of this money contribution, the nations of Europe were to see the young daughters of the Empire, the young nations scattered over the whole Empire, building fleets of their own?"

Sir Wilfrid refuted the suggestion that the Liberal policy was for a separatist navy which would be neutral in time of war. "When England is at war, we are at war," he declared.

I have now to urge upon my hon. friend that the present policy which he proposes settles nothing. The problem that you have to deal with must be a permanent one for to-day, to-morrow and every day as long as the armaments grow in Europe, and the duty which you owe to yourselves, to Canada and to the Empire is the enactment of a permanent policy."

"My Right Hon. friend concluded the argumentative part of his speech with the statement that in claiming for the overseas Dominion the power to have a voice in all questions of peace and war he was recalling the attention of the statesmen of Great Britain to the real problem of Imperial existence. I think it would be difficult for my Right Hon. friend or anyone else to convince us that the existence of the British Empire rests upon so slight a foundation. We have been accustomed to believe, and we will continue to believe, that it rests upon a firmer basis. I have always believed, and will continue to believe, that the firm basis of the British Empire, next to the British Crown, is the local autonomy of the different dependencies, that is to say, their working out of their own destinies to the central end of the Empire."

"The Crown is the great bond, it is the cement which binds together the scattered continents over the whole world. The Crown is a purely sentimental bond, but that bond, though purely sentimental, has proven itself stronger than armies and navies, and has shown itself to be equal to all occasions. I do not believe the Empire is in danger; I do not believe it can be cemented by the means suggested by my Right Hon. friend." Sir Wilfrid concluded his speech by moving the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Hazen's Reply

Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Naval Affairs, who followed Sir Wilfrid Laurier declared that, despite the lofty sentiments and language of the Liberal leader, his whole speech had been simply an appeal to party feeling and an attempt to play politics with the issue. What people wanted was not ancient history, but present-day facts. He declared, that Premier Borden's course throughout had been "the very epitome of sincerity and consistency."

Mr. Borden had promised that if he attained power he would find out the actual facts of the situation, and if they warranted the giving of immediate and effective aid, and if Parliament did not undertake to give this, he would appeal to the country. He said that Mr. Borden had always distinguished between an emergency contribution and a permanent policy, and that the present proposal did not in any way interfere with the working out later of a permanent policy.

He alluded to the fact that the late Government had taken no action to award contracts for the eleven vessels for which tenders had been received in May of last year. He urged that the uncertainty and delay had been due to a realization of the fact that by the time these vessels could be completed they would have become obsolete.

As to the question of the representation of Canada in Imperial councils he declared that British statesmen were making progress in realizing the necessity for this, and that the solution would be worked in connection with the evolution of a permanent policy.

Hon. Mr. Graham's Views

Hon. George P. Graham in the evening said the people of Canada would approach the consideration of this important subject true to their duty and responsibility as British subjects, and of their rights and privileges as Canadians. Mr. Graham briefly reviewed the struggle for responsible government in Canada, noting that the central feature of Canadian history had been the successful struggle to govern themselves as they saw fit, and to expend their own money, and not have it expended for them from Downing street. That was the great underlying issue at stake in the present debate. The young son had grown into manhood, had taken charge of the defences of his own home, so far as the militia was concerned, and should now do the same with regard to naval defence.

CHRISTMAS DAY IN BETHLEHEM.

At this season of the year probably no city of the ancient world presents a more picturesque or attractive aspect than Bethlehem, whose population is many times multiplied by the presence of a vast army of pilgrims from every part of the globe. Mecca, in the height of the great annual Moslem influx, or Hurdwar, in upper India, at the season of the sacred festival, may have much greater but they cannot be said to have more devout or more cosmopolitan crowds than those that flock to the city of David in the Christmas week. Shaped wonderfully like a crescent, yet the only thoroughly Christian town in all Syria, Bethlehem puts on its gayest garb as Christmas approaches. At all times a pretty and attractive place, it is then a thousand-fold more so. The thrifty townspeople, their handsome wives and dark eyed daughters, prepare for the festivities weeks in advance and are ready to welcome the first arrivals.

No words can adequately describe the grandeur of the Christmas services at the Church of the Nativity, which is the center of interest for the pilgrims. These services are kept up the entire week. On the way to church the visitors are beset by peddlers, who insist on pushing under their very noses little ornaments of olive wood and mother-of-pearl. The Church of the Nativity is one of the oldest structures in existence, and, although it has been repeatedly repaired, it still retains much of its original form and character. In the side aisles at different altars priests chant the service in tones that swell and die amid the tall columns that support the roof.

At the shrines groups of pilgrims kneel in reverent adoration, while still other groups are guided around the church by monks, who point out the rich relics and sacred places, the most venerated of all being the shrine of the manger, beneath the church, which, it is claimed, incloses the actual birthplace of the Saviour. During the Christmas festivities this manger shrine is resorted to by great multitudes, who crowd each other in their pious eagerness to kiss the marble slab on the floor with a silver star in the center.

So fervid and enthusiastic are these worshippers that the marble slab has been repeatedly kissed away in places, rendering a new slab necessary. The same experience has occurred with the stone covering of the crypt in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jeru-



MARKET PLACE IN BETHLEHEM ON CHRISTMAS MORNING.

salem, which has had to be renewed several times in consequence of its outer surface being literally kissed away by pious devotees. The tradition is that Christ was once laid in this manger. A few feet distant is the chapel of the Magi, where the wise men of old, Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar, came worshipping with rare gifts.

A subdued, rich light is diffused throughout the grotto by the softly glowing lamps over the star, and the swinging censers lend an agreeable odor to an otherwise close and musty atmosphere. All worldly thoughts are banished as the kneeling pilgrims listen spellbound to the melodious chant of the sacred office or the full, sturdy, noble singing of the grand looking, bearded priests. The low roof, the "living rock," the censers, the music, the lights, all seem to dissolve, and in their stead there appear to the moist eyes of the adoring pilgrims the manger cradle with the babe, the Virgin mother and Joseph, the mean surroundings, the oxen and their litter of straw and the gentle, wondering sheep.

The Christmas festivities, however, are not confined to the Church of the Nativity. The week is a general festival in the town and a season of financial harvest for its citizens. Like all orientals, they are thrifty to avariciousness, and the sight of the splendid gifts that are brought year after year to the church and especially the Grotto chapel, by strangers from afar widely excite their cupidity. Among those thousands that are living temporarily in tents, or it may be, quartered in the more comfortable convent, there are many rich who can be easily persuaded into generosity when under the supernatural influence that seems to pervade everything at Bethlehem—Philadelphia Record.

COMFORT SOAP

IT'S ALL RIGHT

One year's sales of Comfort Soap means enough soap to build a wall 15 feet high and 29 miles long. Think of it! Enough to completely surround The City of Toronto.

POSITIVELY THE LARGEST SALE IN CANADA

Bargains in Clothing and Dry Goods

We have received several new lines of Men's and Women's Clothing, which will be sold at the following close prices:

- Men's Suits at 30 per cent. reduction**
- A good line of Overcoats, Raincoats, Pants, Sweaters, etc. at lowest possible prices.
- Ladies' Suits Reduced 40 per cent.**
- Also Ladies' Coats, Skirts, Waists, etc., at bargain prices.

These are all good goods and we invite your inspection as to quality and price.

A full line of Men's and Ladies' Underwear at right prices.

Highest Prices for Farm Produce

Hides, sheep skins, wool, tallow, raw furs and live poultry wanted, for which the highest prices will be paid in cash or trade.

M. GLASER, Garafraxa Street
Durham - Ontario
One Door South of Burnett's Bakery.

WINTER TERM FROM JANUARY 6

MOUNT FOREST

Business College

MOUNT FOREST ONT.

The commercial world offers greater opportunities than any other field. Our courses are up-to-date and practical. We give individual attention and we assist graduates to positions. We are prepared to do more for our students and graduates than other similar schools. We have scores of applications we cannot meet. Write me at once for particulars.

W. E. WILSON, Principal.

CLASSIC CITY CHRONICLES. A Merry Christmas to the Editor, Staff and Readers of The Chronicle.

Many persons would have to go without a decent Christmas dinner in this city were it not for the thoughtfulness of the C. E. Union and the Salvation Army. For a number of years these organizations have made it a practice to see that every poor person in the city gets a good square meal on December the 25th.

Every person is wishing for good sleighing for Christmas. At present we are having a pretty cold snap, but no snow of any account. Last week some feared that we were going to have a green Christmas, but as one said, "Christmas may not be as green as it looks."

Railway matters will be a live issue at the January elections, as a by-law will be submitted to the electors asking for their approval or otherwise of a scheme permitting a company backed by the C. N. R. to build and operate a street railway in this city.

Recently a well-dressed young fellow drifted into this city and immediately began to purchase clothing and shoes, tendering checks in payment, which eventually proved to be forgeries. His position for the next few years will not be an enviable one.

Your correspondent has just completed a quarter of a century as a dominee. During that time he has taught over 700 pupils. It is to be hoped they have all turned out to be good citizens.

"Coal is coal, nowadays," said a dealer to a customer. "I'm glad to hear it," said the customer, "because the last that I got from you was half slate." Leaving all jokes aside it is pretty expensive work turning black diamonds into heat at \$8.25 a ton.

Holidays are near, and the boys and girls are happy. Some people growl like thunder because the children get so many holidays, but if they get so many holidays, but if they didn't get them, what sad, old-before-their-time youngsters they would be.

Rummage sales in connection with churches, hospitals, etc. are becoming quite popular nowadays. These sales are well patronized and the societies holding them invariably make large sums of

money out of them. They also give the poor a chance to buy very fair second-hand clothing at very reasonable prices.

Imperialism received a great impetus when the Navy Bill was announced in the Canadian parliament recently. Its moral effect on European nations cannot be readily estimated.

Speaking of the Navy Bill reminded me of a remark made by Professor Abbot last week in one of his lectures in psychology given to the Teachers' Reading Circle. "Prejudice," said the Professor, "is nothing more nor less than past experience." It is almost impossible for a red-hot Grit to see anything good in the policy of a dyed-in-the-wool Tory, and vice versa.

The municipal pot has been boiling furiously in this city for over a month. The workmen have been holding weekly meetings in the city hall to discuss municipal matters, and some big change in the personnel of the city council may be looked for, if all stories be true. A city alderman has no sinecure. A little chap once said, "You blame me for everything I do," and that is about the position every alderman is in.

Mr. Martin McLeod, well-known to many people in Pricerville and Swinton Park, has taken a position in one of the leading drug stores here, and is making good. He has become quite prominent as a clever debater, an experience gained at the many debates which he took part in during the past few winters in Artemesia and other places.

A short time ago potatoes sold as high as \$1.50 a bag, but a couple of ear loads of murrhines from New Brunswick brought the price down to \$1.25.

Santa Claus will be a busy fellow for the next few days. We do hope the dear old Saint will not miss any wee laddie or lassie when he takes his customary trip on Christmas Eve. If anyone has the least inkling that "Sandy" may miss some little fellow, kindly give him a tip, and the world will be so much the happier.

If you are troubled with chronic constipation, the mild and gentle effect of Chamberlain's Tablets makes them especially suited to your case. For sale by all dealers.