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Canada and The Imperial Navy.

Two articles from the Ottawa Citizen, on our first page, dealing with Canada's obligations in connection with the Imperial Navy, were written before the debate on that question came up in the House of Commons. The debate in question took place on Monday March 29th, and was opened by Mr. Foster on a resolution, Mr. Foster's resolution had been on the order paper from the beginning of the session. As a matter of fact it had been handed in to the Clerk of the House before the session opened; consequently it was not inspired by the recent awakening in the mother country, by reason of the intelligence that Germany was making extraordinary expenditure in naval architecture. This was Mr Foster's resolution: "That in the opinion of this house, in view of her great and varied resources, of her geographical position and national environments, and of that spirit of self help and self respect which alone befits a strong and growing people, Canada should no longer delay in assuming her proper share of the responsibility and financial burden, incident to the suitable protection of her exposed coast line and great seaports."

Canada's willingness to do her utmost for the Empire in time of need. But for the present, the probable time of trial, nothing more than mere declamation—a waving of the flag and a waiving of responsibility unto a more convenient season. In this spirit Sir Wilfrid moved a substitute resolution. With the landable enough object of avoiding even the semblance of party division upon so serious a subject, Mr Borden entered into negotiation with the leader of the government. The result was a compromise deliverance in which bombastic reference to Canada's alleged achievements in the way of relieving the British taxpayer of the cost of maintaining naval bases in this country was deleted and the country committed to the "speedy" organization of a Canadian naval service. As thus improved and finally adopted by the house the resolution reads: "This house fully recognizes the duty of the people of Canada, as they increase in numbers and wealth, to assume in larger measure the responsibilities of national defence; "This house is of opinion that under the present constitutional relations between the mother country and the self-governing dominions, the payment of regular contributions to the imperial treasury for naval and military purposes would not, so far as Canada is concerned, be the most satisfactory solution of the question of defence; "The house will cordially approve of any necessary expenditure designed to promote the speedy organization of a Canadian naval service in co-operation with, and in close relation to, the imperial navy, along the lines suggested by the admiralty at the last imperial conference, and in full sympathy with the view that the naval supremacy of Britain is essential to the security of commerce, the safety of the empire and the peace of the world; "The house expresses its firm conviction that whenever the need arises the Canadian people will be found ready and willing to make any sacrifice that is required to give to the imperial authorities the most loyal and hearty co-operation in every movement for the maintenance of the integrity and the honor of the empire. Eloquent speeches were made by the Leader of the Opposition and several other members on both sides of the House and this resolution was unanimously adopted. In its editorial comment on the debate and the resolution, the Ottawa Citizen, to which we are indebted for most of our information on the subject, has the following: "CANADA'S BEST WISHES." "Little New Zealand, in recognition of the Empire's need offers the Mother Country a \$10,000,000 Dreadnought. Canada, ignoring the Empire's need as voiced in the speech of its statesmen, offers the Mother Country an expression of its high regard, coupled with the cynical assertion that it does not propose to be stampered into any such liberality. That was the effect of the premier's amendment to Hon. Ma. Foster's motion in the house yesterday. "The speech of Mr Foster was one of the most statesmanlike utterances ever delivered in the house of commons. It rose above party politics, urged several courses by which the present emergency in Imperial naval affairs might be met and concluded with the courteous assurance to the government that whatever method it was pleased to select that would meet the present emergency as well as

provide for a future permanent naval policy on the part of Canada, would receive the loyal support of his Majesty's opposition. "Sir Wilfrid Laurier complimented the honorable gentleman upon the able manner in which he had outlined the situation, and at this point the whole house applauded. There was apparently a feeling that the leader of the government would play up to the situation and that a united parliament would do something at once appropriate and wise. Then, instead of frankly accepting the free hand which Mr Foster's address had left open for the government to take advantage of, Sir Wilfrid rather weakly remarked that the honorable member had failed to specify in set terms what the government should do. In the next breath he made it clear that it did not matter what Mr Foster might have proposed, for the simple reason that the government did not intend to do anything in the way of assisting the Empire at the present time. On the contrary, the government took its stand on the pronouncement at the Imperial conference of 1902 at which it was understood that each of the overseas dominions would provide the nucleus of a fleet to look after its own coasts, and he mentioned that while New Zealand had offered a Dreadnought, Canada did not propose to be stampered into the imitation of its action by any over-night panic. In support of his position he cited the fact that Australia had not done so, but also mentioned that that colony in pursuance of the understanding of 1902, had entered upon an expenditure of some \$9,000,000 to establish a local fleet. Instead of this helping the case it holds up Canada as being in the position of having done nothing in pursuance of the understanding of 1902 and now refusing to do anything in the emergency of 1909. The remainder of the prime minister's speech consisted of protestations of loyalty to the British empire; a fervid oratorical appreciation that the salvation of modern civilization depended upon the supremacy of Britain's Imperial power, leaving the muted inference to be drawn that so far as Canada was concerned this salvation was expected to be free. "The zenith of absurdity was reached when, after referring in slighting terms to the apprehension expressed regarding Germany's projects in the Imperial house of commons by the leaders of both parties, Sir Wilfrid declared that, if it were true that Germany was preparing for Great Britain a mortal blow such as that country dealt to France in 1870, Canada stood ready and willing to assist the Mother Country in such an event in every manner that the dictates of loyalty and gratitude could afford. Also a great many more eloquent periods to the same effect. That, in the event of such a mortal blow being dealt, as suddenly and with such secret preparations as preceded the overthrow of France, it would be then entirely too late for Canada to do anything to avert the blow was a mere detail that did not enter into the eloquent prime minister's sounding peroration. It takes three years to build Dreadnoughts, but in less than three weeks after war was declared Russia's naval power in the East was crippled by Japan, and, once crippled, never regained the ascendancy. "It was the same old story as in 1899—an eloquent expression of our highest regards for the Mother Country, but— "In the evening after a lengthy debate the amendment was amended into, perhaps, more decent shape, but, so far as the present emergency is concerned, it means nothing."

Echoes of the Session.

A few matters in connection with the recent session were not touched upon in our last issue, for want of space. Some of these are of considerable importance, and are deserving of notice. In the first place, there is the order given to Mr. Daniel McKenzie, of Cardigan, for \$384 in payment for piles he did not supply. The order was given in this way: A man working at the bridge borrowed a crow bar from Mr. McKenzie, and while using it at the work it fell into the water and was lost. Mr. McKenzie requested him to return the bar or reimburse him for it. A reasonable request, any one would say. But the man was unwilling to pay for it, so then Mr. Lavers, inspector of the work, stepped in and said, we will fix it in this way. We will give Mr. McKenzie a Government order, purporting to be for piles delivered by him, amounting to more than the price of the bar, and that will satisfy him. In pursuance of this plan, Mr. Lavers drew out the order, of which the following is a copy: COPY OF ROAD ORDER. Road Division No. 11, King's County, No. 188, Georgetown, Sept 17th, 1908. \$384. These are to certify that Mr. Daniel McKenzie, of Cardigan, is entitled to receive the sum of Three, Eighty Four Dollars, being for his labour expended on the following work: 3 Hardwood Piles, 24 feet long, each at 8 on Cardigan B. Which has been completed according to contract and to my satisfaction. W. M. W. LAVERS, (Sgd.) Road Inspector. To L. E. McMillan, Secretary of Public Works.

missioner of Agriculture to do everything in his power, when at Ottawa, to make arrangements enabling us to put our meat products on the Canadian markets. The committee of members from both sides of the House that had this matter under special consideration presented the resolution agreed upon. The resolution was then moved by Mr. James Kennedy and seconded by Captain Read, and unanimously adopted by the House. The resolution was as follows: Whereas the greater part of our meat product consists of carcases of animals owned by farmers and retail butchers and slaughtered by them on their own premises respectively. And whereas provision is made for the shipping of such under the Meat and Canned Food Act of Canada without inspection. And whereas no such provision is made for dealers in said products to the great inconvenience and loss of the producers. Therefore resolved, that in the opinion of this House the Department of Agriculture of Canada be requested to so alter and modify the regulations under the said Act in such a manner that the dealer, merchant or trader purchasing from retail butchers or farmers, shall receive the same privilege as to shipping carcases of animals or portions thereof for consumption in Canada as is extended the farmers and retail butchers under Clause 5 of said Act, provided that each carcass or portion thereof so shipped shall be capable of identification by a number or other significant mark placed upon said carcass or portion thereof and shall also be accompanied by the farmer's certificate mentioned in the regulations under said Act, signed by the farmer or retail butcher selling the same, and which certificate shall contain the number or mark corresponding to that placed upon the carcass or portion thereof so sold, and every certificate so made shall be forwarded by said dealer in the same manner as is done by an individual farmer or retail butcher under the provisions and regulations of the said Act.

Another matter of importance that received a good deal of attention from members of both sides of the House, was the question of our fisheries. Discussion on this subject came up on a resolution, placed on the order paper, early in the session by Mr. Agnew, who subsequently became Speaker of the House. The discussion was adjourned once or twice, and came up for final consideration on Friday evening March 26th, the evening previous to prorogation. As this is a question of great importance to this Province, so largely interested in the fisheries, it received thoughtful attention from such practical men as Mr. McLean, Mr. Prowse, Mr. A. J. McDonald, Mr. Agnew (who discussed it at length, in committee of the whole), the Leader of the Government and the Leader of the Opposition. As a matter of fact, there were not many members, who did not have something to say on it. After a thorough discussion, the resolution was somewhat amended and finally passed, Friday night, as follows: "That this House ask the Federal Government to take such steps as may be deemed best with a view to preserve, increase and develop the fisheries; that this House urges the appointment of a non-partisan Fisheries Board, composed of a fair representation from this Province, for the regulation and control of the Canadian Atlantic fisheries; and that steps be taken to have this important matter acted upon at the present session of the Dominion Parliament."

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Winning advice of the 6th. Say throughout the west, seeding operations have begun and will be general this week. The lovely spring weather continues. From Portage la Prairie west, farmers are all busy and a much larger area than was needed in 1908 is secured. Just what the actual crop area may be is problematical but it will not be under seven million acres in wheat, an increase of three quarters of a million acres over last year.