

# REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

## Sir Richard to Horse.

SIR RICHARD McBRIDE has come out strongly in favour of the naval policy advocated in these columns for the past three years. He is for a fleet unit on the Pacific, in addition to what is done on the Atlantic and what may be done for emergency purposes.

Sir Richard is, in this matter, the greatest Canadian of them all. He is for a Canadian navy, first, last and always. That Sir Wilfrid Laurier passed the first naval service act and laid the first foundation stone in a naval structure, dismays him not a whit. Sir Richard is even big enough to give credit to Sir Wilfrid for what he attempted to do. Sir Richard is no pigmy politician. He knows the political game, but he knows statesmanship also. Because he knows these things he is big enough to recognize bigness even in opponents.

In an interview which appears in the *Toronto Globe* of September 13th, he states that "British Columbia looks for and believes it has reason to expect from Mr. Borden some well-defined and promptly-executed naval policy which provides for the proper protection of the Pacific Coast of Canada by a competent unit." There is no hesitancy in this statement; no hedging; no half-heartedness. It is a bugle note and the Borden Government must take notice.

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## The Only Possible Policy.

PUBLIC opinion on the navy question is developing rapidly. Premier Roblin and Premier McBride have come out for a Canadian navy. These are the two strong Conservative provinces in the West. Presumably Saskatchewan and Alberta are in favour of a Canadian navy; this at least is a reasonable inference from their strong support of the policies of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Thus from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Coast there is only one voice and it speaks for a big Canadian navy. Not a Laurier navy, not a tin-pot navy, but a "more substantial and effective" navy, to use Sir Richard's phrase.

With the West, both Liberal and Conservative, solidly in favour of a Canadian navy, what can Mr. Borden do but adopt the policy which he held in 1909 but lost in 1910 and 1911? What does it matter about Bourassa and Lavergne when seven-eighths of the Canadian people have made up their minds? If Sir Hugh Graham and Hon. Robert Rogers will not yield, let them join Messrs. Lavergne and Bourassa and form a new "rump" party. No one wants them to abandon their honest convictions, and no one will deny them any little pleasure which they may get from falling in a gallant if hopeless struggle.

Surely Mr. Borden can read the signs of the times in this matter. A cash contribution to the British navy will never go in this country unless it is accompanied by a strong national policy which will ultimately provide a fleet unit on each coast. Even then it would have a stern struggle before it gets safely past the national ballot-box. A temporary loan of Dreadnoughts would have an easier time. But no policy can possibly succeed which doesn't provide for permanent national, as well as imperial, defence.

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## The News of the Pacific.

SIR RICHARD McBRIDE believes that Canada should provide for an Asiatic as well as a European menace. He says: "After the Japanese treaty—what?" This is reasonable. The man who provides his building with safeguards against lightning only and not against all sources of fire-damage would be considered insane. The nation which provides for naval attack only from one quarter must be equally insane. Canada has two coast lines, and the sea-attack may come upon either. Both must be defended.

Sir Richard says: "We have been opening up and developing the Province all along the coast line and we want to insure our work in protecting it. To our mind the Asiatic menace to Western Canada is a much more serious and substantial danger than the German peril to England." And this danger can be met reasonably only by a Canadian fleet unit on the Pacific.

A fleet unit to protect British Columbia means a Canadian navy, with naval colleges, training ships,

docks, shipyards, arsenals and all that goes to make up naval efficiency. It means a broad and comprehensive national naval policy, having regard to Canada's future as well as the naval requirements of the Empire.

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## A Non-Partisan Settlement.

AGAIN, and finally, Sir Richard McBride's utterances indicate that the solution of this great national problem is a non-partisan naval policy. To this end, a large number of leading public men are working. The memorial on this subject published recently in this paper and elsewhere has been signed by hundreds of prominent citizens on both sides of politics. Such a settlement is in the air. The intense partisans on both sides are decrying it. To them it seems sacrilege to have such an interesting dispute taken out of the political realm. The men who profit and live by party fights are opposing a non-partisan settlement. But the tide runs against them. The interests of Canada are greater than the interests of either political party or the future prospects of any set of campaign managers.

The people are greater than the politicians, the party press and the paid camp followers. The people intend to have this question, involving so much of the nation's welfare and so much of the nation's honour, settled in a manner which will leave both unimpaired.

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## Irish Home Rule.

A FEW months ago it looked very much as if Home Rule for Ireland was in sight. The outlook to-day is not quite so assuring for the supporters of this measure. Last week the Liberal party in England received two severe checks. The Unionist victory in Midlothian territory proved afresh that the Liberals and the Labour party are getting farther apart, thus indicating a possible return of the Unionists to power. It may be that no alliance between the Unionists and the Labourites will result. Indeed, this is not necessary. All that the Unionists require for their success is a lack of co-operation between the Liberals and Labourites.

The second check came with the declaration of the Rt. Honourable Winston Churchill in a speech at Dundee, when he proposed a new form of local government for the United Kingdom. This speech is taken to indicate the possibility that Home Rule may mean autonomy for two sections of Ireland and for various sections of the United Kingdom. Mr. Churchill's suggestion seems somewhat impracticable, but the Unionists welcome it merely as an indication of a hesitancy on the part of the present administration to force the Bill which is now before the British Parliament. Whether the Liberals remain in power or whether the Unionists return to the treasury benches it begins to look as if Irish Home Rule would long remain in its historic position as one of the great, undecided questions helping to make party government a necessity in Great Britain.

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## A Pernicious Doctrine.

CERTAIN members of the Dominion Government are apparently trying to establish the principle that any civil servant may be removed from office if the Member representing the constituency so decides. This would be a fatal doctrine. It would throw the whole outside service into chaos. It is not a principle recognized by Sir James Whitney, Premier of Ontario, and cannot therefore be said to be a principle recognized by the Conservative party of Canada. Not being a Conservative principle it can only be classed as a temporary practice which has been introduced into the Borden administration clandestinely and without the full knowledge of all the members of that administration.

In dealing with the case of Mr. William Ireland, formerly collector of customs at Parry Sound, the Honourable J. D. Reid has apparently followed this principle. The member for the constituency asked for Mr. Ireland's removal and the Minister decided that the Member's request was sufficient to justify the removal of the officer. I must confess that Mr. Reid's action comes as a sort of surprise as

many of us had the feeling that Mr. Reid would be a high-minded administrator.

The strange part of the whole situation is that those who think as Mr. Reid does are trying to justify their action in the Ireland case and in similar cases by saying that Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Borden have both approved this principle. I am in a position to state that this is not true so far as Sir Wilfrid Laurier is concerned and it is hardly likely that Mr. Borden is in favour of it.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's position is clear. The position which he took in 1896 was, first, that there would be no removal from office except for cause; second, that offensive partisanship would be a cause; third, that every charge would be investigated; and fourth, that when a charge was made by the sitting Member stating, under his signature, facts which he knew of his own personal knowledge, that would be sufficient evidence.

It will be noted that this is an entirely different position to that taken in the Ireland case. The Member for Parry Sound has not made a written report that Mr. Ireland was, to his personal knowledge, guilty of offensive partisanship; therefore Mr. Ireland was entitled to an investigation before dismissal. Indeed, even if the Member had made such a statement Mr. Ireland was entitled to an investigation because he demanded it.

This case promises to be a celebrated one, and unless the Government is prepared for a long fight it would be well advised to grant an immediate investigation. The *Stratford Herald*, a leading Conservative paper, says: "Honourable Dr. Reid will surely see that an inquiry by an impartial man is but common fairness in this case. He should grant it and should re-instate Mr. Ireland if he can prove his innocence as he says he can."

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## White Girls in Chinese Cafes.

THE Dominion Trades Congress, which met at Guelph last week, has passed a strong resolution asking for legislation making it a criminal offence for Orientals to employ white girls in any capacity. This is due largely to the influence of the West, where the general public is apprehensive over the growing practice. The Chinamen have captured the restaurant business in the West and white women who work in them must work side by side with Chinamen. With the Saskatchewan Government and the Dominion Trades Congress condemning it something should be done.

As was pointed out on this page several weeks ago, the Chinese situation is an impossible one. Either the Chinamen must be allowed to bring in their wives or they must be prevented from entering the country. There is no other solution. Governments and reformers may temporise with it, but in the end they must face the issue squarely.

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## Saskatchewan Affairs.

THERE is talk of Hon. Mr. Haultain, leader of the Saskatchewan Opposition, being made a judge, as Chief Justice Wetmore is retiring. At the same time the government is being enlarged and in a short while no doubt Hon. J. A. Calder will succeed Hon. Walter Scott as Premier. Mr. Scott's poor health prevents him taking an active part in administration.

The work in the last two years has fallen largely on Mr. Calder. He has been Provincial Treasurer, Minister of Education, and Minister of Railways and Telegraphs. With the object of lightening Mr. Calder's work two new ministers have been taken into the cabinet.

Hon. George Bell is temporarily Provincial Treasurer. He is a man of good sense and sound judgment, a safe man and a progressive citizen. He has taken a keen interest in public affairs for years and has been in the Legislature since 1908.

Hon. George Langley is a typical Hyde Park orator, and got his facility for dealing with public questions in that same hard London school. In the last two elections he has been greatly in demand as a public speaker. He was on the government's elevator commission and is now one of the three managing directors of the co-operative company which resulted from that investigation. He is therefore eminently fitted to handle the department of municipal affairs over which he has been placed.

Thus the government is being strengthened and the opposition weakened. It would look as if the Conservative party would have to reorganize in that province. The local opposition is weak in numbers, and there is only one Conservative member in the contingent which Saskatchewan sends to Ottawa. Something must be done quickly or there will be as one-sided a situation there as there is in British Columbia, with the parties reversed.