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Mr. Facing-Both-Ways.

An outstanding feature in the visit of the Colonial Premiers to the Imperial Conference, says the St. John Standard, is the marked change in public sentiment towards Sir Wilfrid Laurier. On previous occasions there has been nothing to mar the unity of the gathering of the representatives of the Sister Nations to confer with the Mother Country. There may have been differences of opinion, but the conferences were hailed as a welcome reunion of the members of the British family. Today there is a jarring note. The silver-tongued oratory of Sir Wilfrid does not ring true. That he has lost the high position he held in the estimation of the British people is abundantly evident. The Imperialism he professes is discovered to be something very different from Imperialism as people in the Old Country understand it. There is a strong feeling that he is "facing both ways," and the leading journals do not hesitate to express the prevailing opinion.

The London Globe bluntly tells the Canadian Premier that the nation has an invincible objection to the substitution of "soft soap" for the guidance of true statesmanship and declares that his doctrine as to Canada's independence of Imperial war is a flat negation of Empire. "We admire his measured, graceful periods," says the Globe, "but we own to a prejudice in favor of candor. We are glad to be assured, as Sir Wilfrid assures us two or three times a week, that a new star has arisen in the West, but we should be glad to know which way that star is travelling. We do so feel that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is a very felicitous interpreter of Canadian feeling at the present moment. We honor the distinguished man who has led the Liberal Government fourteen years in Canada, but we are beginning to have a suspicion that the Imperialism he professes is something very different from what we would have supposed. There is room for more clear thinking and clear speaking on Sir Wilfrid's part than he has thought it wise to utter. We are not a nation to be afraid of hard words, when hard words are necessary, but we have an invincible objection to the substitution of 'soft soap' for the guidance of true statesmanship.

Referring to Sir Wilfrid's declaration of Canada's independence in time of Imperial war, the Globe is equally outspoken. It says: "If Britain is at war with a great power, that great power will not refrain from attacking Canada simply because Sir Wilfrid issues a statement that, while he loves the Mother Country with all his heart, he wishes to stand aside when her quarrels are being settled. If Sir Wilfrid thinks the risk is greater than the profit, let him say so. We shall then see how many Canadians agree with him, but let us not pretend that the Empire can attack or be attacked, in watertight compartments that way. That way lies disillusionment and disaster. It is not sound statesmanship to mistake the fundamental facts of the situation."

But by far the most scathing criticism of Sir Wilfrid's

attitude and policy appears in the London Times of May 28. In the third of a series of articles entitled "Quiet Talks With Prime Ministers," his record for inconsistency and double dealing is reviewed with a touch of sarcastic humor which makes the writer's charge that he is no true Imperialist sink all the deeper. Appearing at a time when all the premiers of the Overseas Dominions are assembled in London, the article has an added significance. Addressing Sir Wilfrid, the writer says:—

"We are at present being dazzled, soothed, delighted, flattered, tickled to death, as the Americans say, with encomiums, in which, of course, your silver-tongued orations play a conspicuous part. As I read your speech of Tuesday night—'I love the United States, but let me say that much as I love them I, a Canadian of French origin, love Britain still more'—when I read these affecting words, and heard and saw in imagination the thrill and quaver and the gesture of hand to heart with which they were delivered, I found it hard to believe that only a few weeks ago you were debating whether you should come to England at all for the Coronation and the Conference. You were fighting for Reciprocity with the United States, and Mr. Borden was fighting for the alternative policy of Preference to England. The Leader of the Opposition agreed to a truce in order that you might run over and make beautiful speeches on the unity and freedom of the British Empire—an Empire so free that one has even the right to leave it.

"If I could believe, like that wily old politician, Aristides, that 'the whole gain and sum of life to man is oratory,' I should listen to you with unmixed pleasure. You are a master in the art of epideictic. The Empire is your greatest theme. You preserve it in a fine syrup of beautiful words. While we are listening to you we quite forget poor Mr. Borden, who is fighting in his heavy-handed way for such a sordid and practical thing as British trade! You please us, you flatter us; he is only willing to trade with us. It is no longer true that we are a nation of shopkeepers; we are in the second generation. Though the ruling motive of our fathers in building the Empire was commerce, trade is now 'sordid'—especially in the family. You are tactful not to mention it. We prefer beautiful shows, flags, fine dresses, gold lace, aristocracy (without functions), Royalty (without power). It is the greatest pride of our theatre that it has demonstrated the possibility of waltzing upstairs, and our Imperial Government takes an equal pride in showing the world that it is also possible to waltz downstairs. This we are doing to the flattering music of such silver-tongued oratory as yours.

"In venturing a note of criticism I feel that I am almost profane. I feel like Mr. Pancks when he committed his act of sacrilege upon the venerable Casby. You remember the passage: Quick as lightning Mr. Pancks whipped out a pair of shears, swooped upon the Patriarch behind, and snipped off short the sacred locks that flowed upon his shoulders. But, after all, an Empire can not live on fine words, any more than it can live on sentiment or liberty or territorial magnitude. It has been said that nations and States are united by three things—common trade, common defence, common face. The last we need not speak about, since we have not got it. The second you deny us, for you say that we are not to depend on you in case of war,

"As to the first, you had built your part of the bridge, and you are now pulling it down again, piece by piece, and using the material for a new connection with the United States. It is not the mere loss of so much Preference that matters. It is that you have sought to lead Canada from one tendency into another. In 1896 you definitely turned you back on the United States, and thereby gained the position of which you have since been so picturesque an ornament. Sir John Macdonald and his friends, the United Empire Loyalists, had made the National policy. Fiscal independence, the East and West Route, and trade in the Empire were its component parts. You and your friends had stood for Reciprocity with the United States, and it was by abandoning that policy that you gained and held power. Thus you became at once an Imperialist and a Nationalist, for it is the peculiar glory of our Empire that it fosters the growth of nations under its many-folded flag. You saw Canada becoming symmetrical and strong with its manufactures balancing its agriculture and its tariff enabling it to resist the suck and pull of its great neighbor. Your reward for so intelligently realizing the policy of others was to be called an Imperial statesman and to rest on the support of the British Canadians. At the same time you contrive to retain the support of the provincialists of Quebec by resisting Canadian sentiment in favor of helping the Imperial Navy. Thus successfully and for many years you have played the part of Mr. Facing-Both-Ways.

"But, as you said in your beautiful speech on Wednesday night, 'a star arose in the West,' a new and solid population of American farmers on Canadian soil. Kruger would have refused them a vote and restricted their numbers. Your finer democratic sense saw in them a new factor of power. Your naval policy had made you unpopular in the East; you would change horses and, with the West and Quebec, you would be able to do without the Loyalist vote. Thus you threw over the Imperialists both in Canada and through out the Empire and returned to Reciprocity, the policy of your youth. It was a lightning change, and although it dazzled many it shocked and startled others. For the perspicuous recognized that not only was our hope of Imperial unity threatened, not only was any fiscal system for the Empire, or any preferential treaty between Canada and the Mother Country, made difficult or impossible, but the nationality and unity of Canada herself were menaced by the change. The Canadian West would be cut off from the Canadian East and bound tightly to an American interest. Canadian manufactures would be deprived of their raw material for the benefit of their American rivals, who would also be nearer the Canadian market. Canada would thus be divided into two and her industrial growth stunted. The mutual interplay of agriculture and manufacture necessary to the symmetrical growth of a nation would be checked. The short-sighted man says, 'Let us sell our wheat and our timber.' The long-sighted man replies, 'No, let us sell our flour, our biscuits, our furniture, our paper. Let us not sell our raw material, but the manufactured article. Thus only shall we reap the full profits of our products and establish ourselves on the community of interests that makes a nation.'

"You say, 'It is restricted Reciprocity and we will go no further.' But you remember

the fable: The spider invited the fly to step into his parlor. The fly replied, 'I will only put in one foot: the rest of me will remain outside.' The spider was satisfied. Why? Because he knew the foot would stick. Thus we speak to you more in sorrow than in anger. If you are sapping Imperial interests you are also undermining Canadian nationality. For our part, it were foolish to throw stones. We have had our chance and lost it. Only some of us who had thought we were conferring and find ourselves mistaken, think that real faith would have endured longer, that true love would have suffered more. That, perhaps, is sentiment, and sentiment, nowadays, is only allowed to Free Traders. Let me end on a practical note. Where is the sense in supporting the 'All-Red Route,' for which it is said you are now going to fight, if at the same time you are diverting trade north and south? Surely these things hang together. If we are to have an Imperial trade service we must foster our Imperial trade. If we cannot have sentiment, let us at least have logic."

Island Riflemen Victorious

At the annual Inter-maritime rifle match at Kensington Range, Charlottetown on Thursday last the Island riflemen were victorious over their competitors from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The weather conditions were almost ideal and the shooting at the different ranges, as well as in the aggregate, broke all previous records, not only in the Maritime Provinces, but in the Dominion. With such marvelous shooting all round and in the face of such keen competition it was a glorious victory for the Island team to come out ahead. The highest number of points in the aggregate of the three ranges was made by Sergt. J. Armstrong of the Nova Scotia team, who scored 101 out of a possible 105; New Brunswick's highest was 99 by Major J. S. Frost and the highest by the Island team was 98 scored by Major W. A. Weeks and Sergt. E. McInnis. But the shooting all round by the Island boys was so good that they averaged 957.8 points per man. The scores of the different teams at the respective ranges 200, 500 and 600 yards and the totals were as follows:

200	500	600	Totals
New Brunswick 250	262	241	753
Nova Scotia 255	262	242	759
P. E. Island 260	264	238	762

The Market Prices.

Butter	0.21 to 0.23
Eggs, per doz.	0.16 to 0.17
Powls	0.10 to 0.12
Chicken per pair	0.60 to 0.80
Floor (per owl)	0.00 to 0.04
Beef (small)	0.07 to 0.14
Beef (quarter)	0.08 to 0.10
Mutton, per lb.	0.08 to 0.09
Pork	0.74 to 0.8
Potatoes (small)	0.40 to 0.45
Hay, per 100 lbs.	0.45 to 0.50
Straw	0.40 to 0.42
Hides (per lb.)	0.08 to 0.09
Calf skins	0.12 to 0.124
Sheep pelts	0.00 to 0.00
Onion (per owl)	0.00 to 0.00
Turnips	0.00 to 0.00
Turkeys (per lb.)	0.00 to 0.00
Geese	0.00 to 0.00
Pressed hay	8.50 to 10.00
Sticks	0.20 to 0.25
Ducks per pair	0.90 to 0.90

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