

The Evening Times and Star

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DR. PUGLEY'S SPEECH

"Is the Empire in peril for the want of \$30,000,000?"

This striking question, asked by Dr. Pugsley in the course of his great speech in the naval debate, marks clearly the difference between the policies of the two parties in Canada. The Empire is not in peril for want of \$30,000,000, and to ask the question in the pointed way in which it is asked by Dr. Pugsley shows the utter absurdity of the attitude of Mr. Borden and his supporters. They would be content to borrow \$30,000,000 from John Bull and then offer it to him as Canada's contribution to the defence of the Empire.

If all that Britain wanted was \$30,000,000 to ensure the safety of the Empire, that amount of money could easily be raised without any noisy demonstrations at Ottawa or elsewhere. The real need is not for a cash contribution, but for Canadian men and ships to be ranged up by the side of men and ships from other parts of the Empire to share in the task of imperial defence.

Dr. Pugsley shows very clearly that there need be no waste of time in establishing Canadian shipyards, which could, if necessary, construct Dreadnoughts as well as cruisers and smaller craft. The history of the Fore River Ship Building Co., which has cities, could be repeated at a Canadian port such as St. John. If it could not, then Canadians are indeed an inferior people.

Dr. Pugsley points out that if the policy of the Laurier government had been carried out, St. John would have had a ship-building plant established by the great British firm of Cammell, Laird Co. One of Mr. Hazen's first acts as the representative of St. John in parliament and in the government was to return to this firm their deposit, and thus decline to carry out a policy which would have been of much greater value to this port and to the whole Dominion.

The speech delivered by Dr. Pugsley is one of the strongest and most practical delivered during the naval debate, and it must make a strong impression upon parliament and upon the country.

THE NAVAL QUESTION

The issue between the parties in Canada with regard to naval defence is clear cut. The government favors a policy of tribute, and apparently believes that Canadians should line their fighting done. The Liberals on the other hand insist that Canada should pursue a self respecting policy and build and maintain her own navy, which would be an integral part of the navy of the British Empire.

Under the Borden policy Canada would have no responsibility and no control. A deadly blow would be struck at the principle of autonomy, for which Canadians have struggled all through the history of the country. Or what benefit to Canada would it be to be represented on the Imperial Defense Committee since that committee has nothing to do with deciding the issue of peace or war? The time has come for the people to face the issue squarely, and decide whether they are in favor of a retrograde step in relation to Canadian autonomy, and whether they are content with the humiliating position of a nation that is not prepared to defend itself but must pay tribute for defence.

There is a little reason for objecting to establishing shipyards in Canada today as there will be five or ten years hence. The little Canadians who say that we cannot build ships and cannot man them are not the men who should be in control of the destiny of this country. The Liberals at Ottawa do well to press for an appeal to the country upon this question, and for a choice by the people between the Borden policy and that advocated by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. There is no emergency. The statements made by Premier Asquith, Mr. Winston Churchill, Sir Edward Grey and others in authority in England are conclusive on this point. Such being the case it is the duty of Canada to begin the creation of a Canadian navy, so that she may be in a position to protect her own coast and trade routes. The people of the country will never consent to a policy which will place them in a humiliating position, and take from them even in the smallest degree that autonomy which, exercised in all the overseas states, is the surest bond of empire. Any attempt to centralize authority will lead to disaster which will be infinitely more injurious to the cause of imperial unity than the largest measure of local autonomy. Mr. Borden did not go to England to learn what would be the best course for Canada to pursue in the matter of naval defence, but to learn in what way a contribution could best be made that would not be objected to by his Nationalist allies. He has learned that the Nationalists are not nearly as formidable as he had feared. Two of his bright and shining lights have preferred office to principle and have repudiated their former attitude with regard to the navy. The defence of Canada and of the Empire ought not to be entrusted to men of this stamp. If the same were submitted to the people there is no reasonable doubt that the true Canadian and Imperial policy of the Liberal party would be endorsed.

BUILDING IN CANADA

The Financial Post of Canada publishes this week some very interesting facts relative to building operations during the past year. It is learned that in cities from

which returns have been received fully \$300,000,000 were spent last year in new buildings, and the Financial Post believes that it would be safe to add another \$100,000,000 to this amount for buildings planned and erected in 1912, exclusive of all public works and improvements of that kind. The following is a list of thirteen cities, with the Financial Post's figures showing the value of the building permits granted last year:

Toronto	\$27,401,761
Winnipeg	20,475,350
Calgary	20,394,220
Montreal	19,641,955
Vancouver	18,428,422
Edmonton	14,446,819
Victoria	8,208,155
Regina	7,640,230
Saskatoon	5,491,800
Hamilton	5,275,797
Moore Jav.	4,211,283
Port William	3,621,850
Ottawa	3,621,850

Four other cities show a value of more than \$1,000,000. The greatest increase in any one city last year was in Edmonton, the figures being \$14,446,819 in 1912 compared with \$3,672,280 in 1911.

St. John does not figure in the big list for 1912, and there is only an approximate estimate for the year, which shows the necessity of a better system of getting at the value of building permits so that the city may get the benefit of the announcement. With the large contracts to be carried out this year the St. John statement for 1912 should be one such as will make the western cities sit up and take notice.

The Financial Post shows that the building operations in the west last year were three times as large, on a basis of population, as in the east. For example, the little town of Weyburn shows for nine months a larger amount in value of building permits than is credited to St. John for the whole year, and the figures for St. John are greater than those of Halifax. From inquiries made the Financial Post concludes that the outlook throughout Canada for the present year is exceedingly bright and points to a new record in the east as well as the west.

The Toronto Globe points out that at the Guelph Agricultural and Experimental Union it was shown that on two and a half acres intensively farmed a clear profit of \$2,700 per year was made, in addition to supplying the home with vegetables, fruit, eggs, honey, milk, butter and the like. It was also shown that 10 acres was too much for one family to cultivate intensively. There should be a great opportunity for intensive farming close to St. John.

Remove these delinquent girls from the conditions which have served as degrading influences and these same poor little children—criminal infants—will grow into most splendid citizens," said Miss Mary Bartelme of Chicago, the newly appointed assistant judge of the juvenile court. "I intend," she announced, "to devote my time not so much to passing judgment as to assisting those unfortunate brought to me. Delinquent children in a great majority of cases are not to blame. They are simply victims of circumstance."

The residents on Douglas Avenue have given practical evidence of public spirit, which is very greatly to their credit as citizens. At a meeting held last evening they approved of a proposition for the paving of Douglas Avenue, the property holders to pay one-third of the cost, the total cost not to exceed \$21,000. Douglas Avenue is a very important thoroughfare and will become more important when the new bridge is built, and there is greater development on the west side and in the parish of Lancaster. No doubt the street railway company may be prevailed on to do something toward further beautifying the Avenue, and it may be hoped that the work will be carried on. Not only do the residents show a public spirit, but they would be really adding to the value of their property, and for this reason the action which they propose should be encouraged.

The Maritime Merchant declares itself in favor of the parcel post. It admits that this attitude may not be approved by some of its readers who are engaged in the retail trade, but it points out that the parcel post must come and that there is no use in protesting against it. Those who may be affected by it should therefore consider best how they may turn it to their advantage, rather than devote any time to an attempt to ward off the inevitable. This is the right view to take. There was strong opposition to the measure in the United States but it was of no avail. Canada in adopting the parcel post will merely be following the example of other countries, whose experience has proved that the measure is of benefit to the majority of the people. The Merchant is able to point out various ways in which merchants may be benefited by the cheaper transportation of small parcels, and especially how it will work out to the advantage of the general public.

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Prof. A. T. Smith.

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It is wonderful how quickly Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills sweep the poisons from the digestive system and enable the organs of digestion to resume their natural functions. Prof. A. T. Smith, 1 Mt. Charles street, Montreal, and formerly of Boston, Mass., writes: "I suffered for many years from bad digestion, constipation and horrible backaches. I have been treated by many doctors without any results. One day a friend in Boston advised the use of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. After using two boxes I noticed great improvement, and after the fourth box was completely cured. My digestion is good. I never feel any pain in the back. My head is clear and I feel like a young man. I think Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills are one of the best medicines on earth."

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LIGHTER VEIN

STAMP-CLICKING.

The chief was in a bad temper when he arrived at the office in the morning, and forthwith he proceeded to vent his wrath on the head of the pretty young lady who manipulated his typewriter. "Miss Jones," he said testily, "can't you keep my desk tidy? Everything on it is, as usual, in a state of confusion."

"Well, how can I keep it tidy when you say you don't want anything disturbed?"

"What's the use of arguing? I said I didn't want papers disturbed. That's all. But this rubbish—take it away, take it away! Also this great sheet of postage stamps. I don't want it."

"And where shall I put it?"

"Oh, don't ask so many questions! Put it where you like—anywhere."

"Very well," she cooed, and licking the sheet of stamps with her dainty little tongue, she stuck it on her employer's bald and shining head, then left the office to seek another post.

AN EASY SOLUTION.

The mother of Master Gustave Adolphus Bine was giving a Christmas party, and on the sole condition that he behaved himself, he was allowed to participate in the festivities.

The guests were seated round a friendly cup of tea, preparatory to the games, and were waited on by a maid with a swollen face. The youthful saint scrutinized the rounded contour of her cheek with keen avidity as she moved to leave in the performance of her duties. Then, rising and stretching himself to the full extent of his four foot nothing, he thrust both hands deep into the pockets of his black velvet faulters, and cried, as he glanced around:

"Mother, I do wish you could have toothache, instead of Jane."

His adoring mother showed her pearly teeth in an amused smile at her expectant friends as she asked:

"Why, darling?"

"Because," answered the small incorrigible, as he resumed his seat on the black satin hassock, "she completed the picture, 'you can pull yours out and Jane can't.'"

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