

COAST-GUARDSMAN BORDEN TO THE RESCUE



CANADIAN NAVY IS BEST, SAYS ROWELL

Liberal Leader Urges Canada to Undertake Responsibility of Maintaining Ships.

HIS SPEECH AT GALT

Burden Should Be Lifted From Shoulders of British Tax-payers by Canadians.

GALT, Dec. 6.—(Special)—N. W. Rowell, K.C., leader of the Ontario Liberals, delivered an address to the Canadian Club here tonight on "Canadian Navy and Imperial Unity."

One of the most important phases of this subject is the question of naval defence, he said. "I had prepared this address before I knew what the government proposals would be, and I am sure you will afford me the opportunity of saying what I had intended to say before we knew what the government's proposals were."

Mr. Rowell then reviewed the history of the question of naval defence from the year 1887, when the Government of Great Britain first requested Canada to share the burden of naval defence, which Canada then refused to do.

The memorandum prepared by the British Admiralty and submitted to the house of commons yesterday by Mr. Borden, as well as the address delivered by Mr. Borden in introducing his proposals, simply confirmed and strengthened the views I had already expressed. I had already expressed my views as well as our own self-respect, would not permit us to do justice to Britain to longer bear, unaided by us, the whole burden of naval defence, not only of Great Britain and her commerce, but of our shores and our commerce as well, and that the time had come when Canada must in justice to herself as well as to Great Britain, take definite and effective action.

"I have already pointed out the strength which has come to the empire by the recognition of the autonomy and national status of the self-governing dominions. Sir Herbert Samuel, speaking in this house before the British Association for the advancement of science, pointed out that of the two great discoveries in the sphere of government which have been made by the British people, discoveries which he stated 'had moulded the shape of the modern world' one is that of 'colonial self-government, which, alone has enabled autonomy to be reconciled with unity.' Those who are greatly concerned not only in the progress and development of Canada, but in the security and stability of the empire, and who believe that that security and stability can only be preserved and maintained by following the principles of our national development, which has produced such large and beneficial results in the past, may be permitted to express their gratification that Mr. Borden in introducing his proposals yesterday, stated very clearly that he recognized the full importance of maintaining our Canadian autonomy, and that we must proceed in our development along the lines of co-operation, consistent with this autonomy. I shall not discuss

here the question of whether the actual proposals submitted are in harmony with this principle or not and the recognition of the principle is a cause for gratification.

Alarming Growth. "The remarkable and alarming growth of naval armaments in recent years is a fact with which all statesmen of imperial affairs have been familiar, and the British House of Commons and the general public have been kept informed from time to time of the various stages of this growth. The situation thus created is a serious one, and I am sure we must all be greatly gratified to see by the memorandum as well as the speech of the prime minister that Great Britain does not confront at the present time any new, unexpected or unforeseen difficulty, but that she is simply facing today, with great patience, courage and resource, the problem which she has been facing and grappling with for some years, a problem which it is our bounden duty to help her solve.

"If I understand the address of the prime minister aright, the ships to be built are to be and to remain the property of Canada, but to be manned and maintained by Great Britain. In view of the great burden Great Britain is now carrying in naval defence, a burden involving the gift of her sons to man her ships, as well as of her money to maintain them, in view of the great demands upon the British exchequer for moneys to carry out important schemes of social reform, I cannot but confess my own personal regret that Canada is not manning and maintaining, as well as giving these ships a fighting outfit.

"Why should we impose upon the British people and the British exchequer the obligation of manning and maintaining ships, when Canada is well able to do so herself? In view of the statement that Great Britain has been compelled to withdraw her naval forces from the outposts of empire, in order to strengthen the forces at the centre, and that she is not able to maintain naval forces either in the North Atlantic or in the North Pacific, where admittedly such forces are needed, I cannot but express my personal regret that Canada is not undertaking to carry out the naval agreement of 1911 between Great Britain, Canada and Australia, whereby Canada assumed the responsibility for providing the forces necessary, both in ships and in men, to protect these naval bases; to fly the white ensign on these seas to protect the trade routes as well as the honor and integrity of the empire, just as Australia is now doing in Australian waters.

"For over 25 years Great Britain has been asking us to take part in the naval defence of the empire. Surely the people of Canada have had time enough to make up their minds as to what our naval policy should be. Surely it is not necessary to defer longer a statement of this policy. The whole of the address of the prime minister was a most cogent argument against further delay, and as a Canadian citizen, may I express the earnest hope that the government will see its way clear before the present bill goes thru the house, to undertake the manning and maintaining of the ships which it is proposed to build, and definitely to assuming the responsibility on behalf of Canada of protecting the naval base of the North Atlantic and North Pacific as provided in the terms of the naval agreement of 1911.

No Cause for War. "I am sure we must all appreciate the temperate and moderate and serious way in which the prime minister presented the proposal to the house, and I am sure we all hope that in the discussion in the house, nothing may be said which will tend to embitter the relations between the empire and the other countries of the world. We have no good cause for war with any other nation. No other nation has any good cause for war with us.

"I am sure," Mr. Rowell concluded, "that it must have been a great gratification to all to read the statement made a few days ago by the German Chancellor to the effect that at the present time the relations between Germany and Great Britain were steadily improving. May they continue to improve. A good understanding between Germany and Great Britain would be one of the best possible guarantees for the peace of the world. We in Canada, particularly you in this County of Waterloo, where so many of our German fellow citizens reside, know how we appreciate the great qualities of the German race. They spring from the same original stock as we do, and valuing them as we do here in Canada, may not express the hope that Canada in some way be the means not of dividing these two great races, but of drawing them closely together in friendly co-operation to promise the highest ideals of our common civilization and to preserve the peace of the world."

Sunday World

Last week the circulation of The Sunday World was 75,000, and the edition was exhausted early. This represents a remarkable growth, the best evidence that the public are well satisfied. This week, in addition to our many regular features, we present an artistic front page, in four colors, representing the transformation from the old game of shinney to hockey. The Sunday World will give special attention to hockey this winter, as well as to skating, articles concerning which are appearing from week to week.

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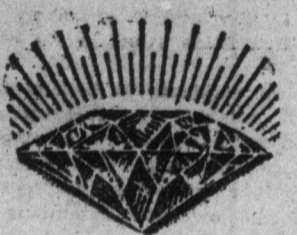
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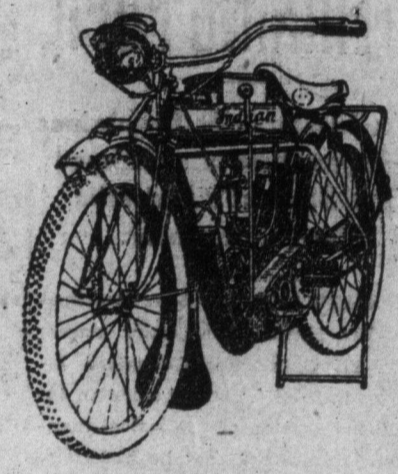
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