

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1914.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H. M. The King.
 TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

THE LIBERAL POLICY.

Apparently the Telegraph is learning that it has no adequate defence for the disloyal actions of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who, having failed to take any effective steps in the direction of Canadian aid to the Empire navy called upon his partizan majority in the Canadian Senate to kill the proposal of Mr. Borden, which, if adopted, would have given to that navy the assistance asked for, when it would have been of most value. The Telegraph, fearing itself to discuss naval matters, has fallen back upon the expedient of republishing the opinions of the Toronto Globe and, its yesterday morning's issue, treats its readers to a lengthy extract from the Globe entitled, "The Liberal Naval Policy."

The article, which is a remarkable production, quotes Sir Wilfrid Laurier to this effect: "Our policy," said Sir Wilfrid, speaking of the attitude of himself and his supporters during the long session, "was that we should have two feet units—one on the Atlantic and one on the Pacific—to take the places of the British squadrons which had been removed from these waters."

This purports to be a proposal advocated by Sir Wilfrid, and is so presented by the Toronto Globe, and republished by the Telegraph for the express purpose of causing the people of Canada to believe that the Liberal leader entertained definite high and patriotic ideas on the subject. But it is not a true presentation of the case, and can be proven false by the Toronto Globe itself, and by reference to Hansard.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier rejected the idea of a Pacific fleet unit when he was in power. The proposal of the British Admiralty in 1909 suggested "that all parties unite in establishing an Imperial Pacific fleet; that Canada and Australia should each contribute a fleet unit, and that New Zealand and the Mother Country should co-operate in providing two additional units."

It felt that the Pacific was the important point for Canada to guard, as the British fleet could look after the Atlantic. But, at the Imperial Conference, Canada, led by Sir Wilfrid, resisted so strenuously that the plan fell through. That portion of the official report of the Conference of the year 1909, the year to which the Globe refers, says in reference to the attitude of the Canadian representatives:

"While on naval strategical considerations it was thought that a Fleet Unit on the Pacific as outlined by the Admiralty might in the future form an acceptable system of naval defence, it was recognized that Canada's double sea-board rendered the provision of such a fleet unsuitable for the present." This is found in the report of The Defence Conference 1909, British Blue-book, page 23.

The Admiralty had assured the conference that Great Britain could look after the Atlantic waters, but that it would be advisable for Canada and Australia each to furnish a fleet unit for the Pacific. Apparently the Admiralty spoke from knowledge and based its assurance on its ability to fulfill its promises. But Laurier, with his superior intellect, set his judgment up against the British Admiralty and refused the Pacific unit. This refusal he emphasized in the report he delivered to his supporters in the House of Commons when introducing the Naval Service Bill in 1910. He is quoted in Hansard 1909-1910, page 1726, as follows: "The representatives of the Canadian Government at the Conference took the ground that it would not be advisable for Canada to have all her fleet on the Pacific Ocean." Yet a Pacific fleet was the only fleet the Admiralty asked for at the time.

From Sir Wilfrid's own words it can be seen that he refused the Admiralty proposal in 1909 and emphasized his refusal in 1910. Eventually, he decided upon a plan under which two light cruisers would be built and placed in Pacific waters (not what the Admiralty asked for, or wanted, but a cheap scheme of his own), and for two light cruisers and six destroyers in the Atlantic (where the Admiralty told him there was no need for them).

His idea was not to work in accord with the British naval authorities but to evolve a scheme of his own, a separate navy which, in time, would lead to the independence of Canada. This view was expressed by Dr. G. A. Turcotte, Liberal member for Nicolet, and Sir Wilfrid's close friend and confidante. Dr. Turcotte is quoted by Hansard on page 4624, 4625 and 4626 of the reports of 1909 and 1910 as saying:

"I intend supporting the present policy of the government because the more, in my humble opinion, we assert our national existence the more we approach the state of national perfection and the closer we get to the status of independence. The establishment of a war navy will, in my humble opinion, be the last step towards independence." And the following year in Hansard of 1910-11, on page 500, we find Dr. Turcotte quoted as follows: "I take back nothing that I have said. I stand firm in the position I took, that sooner or later, independence or annexation will be the destiny of this country."

This is not the personal opinion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but it is the opinion of his close friend and confidante, and is entitled to consideration, for it is not on record that Sir Wilfrid ever rebuked Dr. Turcotte for his sentiments.

Again, on November 2nd, 1910, the Montreal Witness, a newspaper whose veracity few will question, published in a report of a meeting held in Victoria, Quebec, the opinion of Dr. Henri Beland, whom the Times last evening referred to as a former member of the Laurier Cabinet. Dr. Beland, on that occasion was quoted as declaring that the Laurier Navy Bill was "the most glorious measure ever passed by the Canadian Parliament, a step toward the independence of Canada, for only a nation could have a navy."

In the face of statements such as these and additional evidence which is to be gathered in abundance by any person who takes the trouble to read the pages of Hansard, it is useless for the Toronto Globe, the St. John Telegraph or any other newspaper to tell the people that the naval policy of Laurier and the Liberals was the policy desired by the British Government or the policy calculated to bring Canada closer to the Motherland. On the contrary, it was designed in the fond hope that it would lead to "Canadian independence" and the Liberals of today cannot deny it.

THAT POLITICAL TRUCE.

Faced by the plain facts regarding Laurier's dismal failure to do anything worth while in the way of assisting in the solution of the problem of imperial defence, and his bitterly disloyal action in engineering, through his Senate partisans, the defeat of Mr. Borden's plan, which, if adopted, would have effectively aided the Empire, Liberal papers and Liberal champions are indulging in the feeble protest that to discuss political matters now is to violate the "truce" supposed to have been entered into at the beginning of the Empire war.

Webster defines a truce as "a temporary cessation of hostilities, either for negotiation or other purpose." In a time of truce each party is supposed to refrain from hostile or overt acts toward the other. It does not mean that a state of guerilla warfare can be maintained, or that those seeking the protection of the white flag can indulge in "sniping shots" at the enemy. Yet this appears to be the Grit definition of the term.

Proof of this contention is afforded by the Telegraph which made vigorous protest when the possibility of a Dominion election was mentioned, on the ground that it would interfere with business and bring about a distraction of the public mind from matters of greater importance. A few days later when the Telegraph thought it would be advisable to have a provincial election it was equally loud in its clamor that the Government of New Brunswick should go at once to the polls. Faced with evidence of its inconsistency the Telegraph attempted to claim that its objection to an election applied only to a general election where the attention of the whole country would be distracted.

Of course it did not matter that the attention of New Brunswick would be distracted as much by a provincial as by a general election, or that business would be as seriously interrupted. It did not occur to the Telegraph that its solicitude should be first applied to the province in which it circulates and does business; that it should be as loath to see New Brunswick distracted by a provincial election as the Dominion generally by a federal contest. It was merely working the "political truce" for partisan ends.

So it is with the discussion of political questions. The Telegraph can see no harm in stirring up feelings of strife among New Brunswickers over provincial affairs but the minute those same New Brunswickers are asked to devote attention to Laurier's failure to do anything effective for the Empire's defence, a much more vital and

compelling question than the collection of a local campaign fund, the Telegraph shouts "truce" and all the Grit champions in the country inveigh against the introduction of political questions at this time. It is another case of a "political truce" for partisan ends.

The Standard was prepared to observe an alleged undertaking by which political questions should be permitted to remain in abeyance until the affairs of Empire were settled. But since it pleased the Grit press to abuse the flag of truce, and indulge in guerilla warfare, that press is subject only to the treatment accorded to any other abuser of a similar agreement. And in actual warfare a shot fired under a flag of truce is usually a signal for the withdrawal of the flag and the speedy resumption of hostilities. The same ruling applies to political discussion in the St. John newspapers. So far as The Standard is concerned the "truce" was terminated the minute the Telegraph commenced to "snipe."

Is it possible the Times contemplates another flop? Last evening the front page of that journal contained in large type spread over three columns the words "Former Member of Laurier Cabinet Severely Wounded" and under the greater part of this statement the surprising announcement that "Even Better News May Come Out of Poland."

Shoulder to Shoulder.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

As far as possible the fighting capacity of the country should be trained upon the enemy, and upon the enemy alone. There should be no making of any kind of war upon anybody else. Political parties cannot now be locked in a struggle with each other. They must be loyal comrades in the fight against Germany.

It will not be denied that the Minister of Militia is doing his part to put all Canada's forces into a blow at Germany. At such a time he should not have to stand a peeping fire from any Canadian quarter. His face is to the enemy, and his back ought not to be a target for sharpshooters' rifles at home. If he has sometimes been injudicious in speech and inconsiderate in manner, it is to be regretted, but in a war in which blood is flowing like water, in which soldiers are suffering the severest hardships, in which hundreds of thousands of innocent non-combatants are on the verge of starvation, the politenesses are not the principal thing. It is a time to be thin-skinned. A single emphatic protest may be reasonable, but there should be nothing like a campaign of nagging. If by word or manner the Minister did put himself in the wrong, the fault can be remembered against him and the complaint can be made when there are less serious things to be attended to than those now engaging his attention.

The business of the moment is to drill men for service at the front, not to form the public into a court-martial to try the Minister for alleged breaches of etiquette. If it is the wrong time to make an issue of asperities of manner on the part of the Minister, so it may be too soon to praise his work as it deserves. When men's minds are less overwhelmed by thoughts of the frightful war, and more in progress, they will be able to contemplate the full magnitude of our Government's performances in this connection. Surely no one will withhold from Hon. Sam Hughes the credit that is due him for his part in making Canada a strong auxiliary of the Mother Country in this war. From the first he was in exact agreement with Sir Robert Borden as to the gravity of the European situation, and as to the need of making timely and adequate defensive arrangements. We are sure that a few of their political opponents now wish they had seen eye to eye with Sir Robert Borden and Major-General Hughes two years ago. The present task of the Militia Department would have been greatly lightened and Canada would have been able to render assistance more promptly. The zeal and energy of the Minister of Militia have been backed by the great driving force of the Prime Minister, and wonders have been done. In an astonishingly short time an expeditionary force of 33,000 men was brought together from all parts of the country, organized, equipped and trained to an advanced state of preparedness for the field. It is now on Salisbury Plains ready for the call that may come at any hour to embark for the battlefields of the Continent. It will not be long before the Canadian force for war service abroad amounts to 100,000 men.

Instead of picking a quarrel with General Hughes, and pin-pricking him at a time when he is in the greatest strain of service to the Empire in the most critical moment of its history, his fault-finders ought to be mindful of what he has done and is doing, and ought to turn in to help along his efforts. He is doing what he can to make Canada's strength effective against the enemy. If it is the enemy alone we should all be attacking. We believe that the men least ruffled by Major-General Hughes' Y. M. C. A. speech are the officers whose action he animatedly urged. Those capable and patriotic soldiers will go on doing their duty, and will, we trust, not be called upon to grin and bear any further comment of that character.

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Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

I wrote about the kuntry today, being this:
 THE KUNTRY.

The chief differences between the city and the kuntry is that city people think it must be grate to live in the kuntry and kuntry people think it must be grate to live in the city. Both the city and the kuntry are exciting places to visit, depending awn weathir you live in the city or the kuntry.

If it wasent for the kuntry there woodent be any farms, and if it wasent for the farms there woodent be any putayids, tummayids, cows, eggs, asparagras, chickens, or utlir vegetabils, and wat wood we do then? This proves that the kuntry is wun of the most nessessary things there is.

If you ask most peopl if they wood like to live in the kuntry, they say, "Its awt rite in summir. I asked popwy we dont live in the city in the wintir and the kuntry in the summir, and he sed, For the salm reason we dont maintain a shooting box in Skotland, spend Kriasmus in Paris, take in the London opera seazin, and see Amelia fest.

The kuntry is the best plase to swim, because you dont haff to ware any cloze. Even if there was a plase to swim in the middel of the city like there is in the middel of the kuntry, the kids coodent go in like they go in the kuntry, because it wood look farse.

Su mthings they have in the kuntry wich we dont have in the city are pumps, bare feet, hoam made bred, meddows and horses without wag-gins.

I wrote a pome about the kuntry, being this:
 The kuntry is a luvly plase
 Awl filled with berds and cows
 And gentilman hens called roostirs
 And lady pigs called sows.

OBITUARY.

Captain Michael Tucker

Peter Campbell has received word of the death at Bristol, England, of Captain Michael Tucker, at the advanced age of eighty-two years. Captain Tucker passed away on November 13th. Deceased was an Englishman, and for many years he sailed out of St. John as mate and master

and made his home at St. John. His wife was a Miss Coxeter of this city. On the decline of the sailing vessels he made his home in Bristol.

Mrs. Mary Graham

The death of Mrs. Mary Graham took place yesterday morning at the residence of her son, Mr. Enoch W. Graham, 51 Metcalf street, after a brief illness. She was in the seventieth year of her age and the news of her death will be received with regret. She is survived by one son, Mr. Enoch W. Graham.

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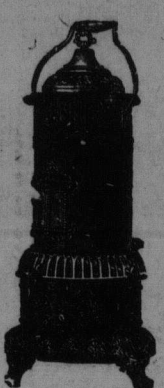
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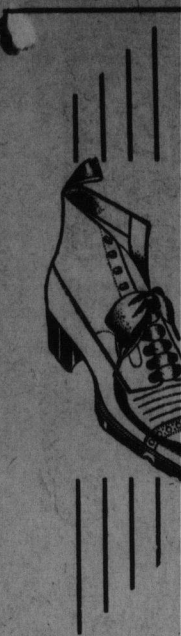
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STANDARD, NOVEMBER 28, 1914.