

The Standard

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SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 23, 1911.

THE DECLARATION OF LONDON.

The announcement made by Mr. Asquith in the British House of Commons this week that the Government will force through the ratification of the Declaration of London, the international agreement governing prizes in naval warfare, must be regarded as final. The British Premier takes the ground that the declaration has been approved by the Government after the fullest examination and that they regard it as a matter of high policy. He intimates in other words that the Government would make the ratification a question of confidence.

Some light is thrown on this determined attitude of the British Premier in the face of the strong protests from Chambers of Commerce, shipowners, and Admirals of the Fleet, in the explanation given by Sir Edward Grey at the Imperial Conference. He pointed out that if they refused at this stage to agree to its ratification, it would undermine the confidence which other powers had in them, as a power prepared to forward arbitration. As to the merits of the agreement Sir Edward contended that it was advantageous to them and, from the general point of view of the settlement of disputes by impartial arbitration, withdrawal would be really an incentive to other nations to go on with international arrangements without them.

While this explanation is satisfactory as far as it goes, it by no means answers the main objection which was raised by Mr. Fisher, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia, in the following resolution which he submitted to the conference:

"That it is regretted that the dominions were not consulted prior to the acceptance by the British delegates of the terms of the Declaration of London; that it is not desirable that Great Britain should adopt the inclusion in article 34 of food stuffs in view of the fact that so large a part of the trade of the Empire is in those articles; that it is not desirable that Great Britain should adopt the provisions of articles 38 to 54 permitting the destruction of neutral vessels."

The inclusion of food stuffs to which the resolution refers creates a serious situation. The British mercantile marine approximates to nearly half the mercantile tonnage of the world (aggregating about 37,000 vessels and about 13,500,000 tons), and some four-fifths of the food supply of Great Britain has to traverse the seas. The total number of commerce-protecting cruisers stationed in all the non-European waters of the globe is no more than twenty-seven. The substantial effect of this is that it would be quite impossible, during war, to protect ships carrying food to Britain, and the result of that inability would inevitably be the immediate creation of panic prices in the Old Country.

What the Declaration of London really does is to expose all neutral shipping carrying foodstuffs to British ports to exactly the same risk of interruption. Articles 23 and 24 have the practical effect of placing it absolutely at the discretion of the captain of a hostile cruiser to arrest any neutral ship whatever which is carrying any kind of foodstuffs (with the solitary and extraordinary exception of nuts) to any part of the United Kingdom. He has such discretion if the goods are consigned to any trader (commerce is the word in the original French, which is alone authoritative) in British waters, which is alone authoritative) in British waters who supplies such articles, or to any place serving as a base for British armed forces. As a matter of fact, there is no port in the British Isles which could not be construed by the captain of a German man-of-war as serving in this capacity. The almost complete absence, throughout the distant oceans of the world of cruiser protection, coupled with this liability of all neutral shipping carrying foodstuffs to capture, creates a situation which would be a serious menace to the British people.

The point in Mr. Fisher's resolution raising objection to the destruction of neutral shipping deals with a provision in the declaration which gives discretion to the captain of a hostile cruiser to sink at will any neutral ship which he may have captured, provided he chooses to consider that to send her into port would interfere with his operations. Another provision practically prohibits the transfer of British shipping to any neutral flag within a period of thirty days preceding the outbreak of hostilities. Another effect which results negatively from the declaration is that Germany or any other Power with whom Great Britain may be in conflict is at liberty to convert any of its merchant ships into vessels of war, after conflict has begun and without any previous notification as to which vessels are to be so employed. In substance and effect this asserted right constitutes the revival of privateering in a form more fatal and more insidious than was ever known before.

BETWEEN TWO FIRES.

The strong opposition which has developed against the Reciprocity Agreement with the United States has for the moment withdrawn attention from the Government's naval policy. But the danger of defeat on this issue is being thoroughly realized by Sir Wilfrid Laurier's henchmen in the province of Quebec where a campaign covering four hundred meetings within a few weeks is now in progress under the superintendence of Mr. Levesque, Dr. Beland, Mr. Lanctot and others. In Quebec Reciprocity is not being put forward as the main issue at any of the meetings. It is evident, however, by the amount of time devoted to the navy question that the situation is regarded as critical.

The smashing defeat administered to Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Drummond-Arthabaska, where his naval policy was the supreme issue, gave evidence of hostility in his own province which threatens disaster at a general election. The Government looked for an easy victory in a riding that was strongly Liberal. The prestige of the French-Canadian premier, with the power of a Government behind him, was looked for to settle once and for all the teachings and possible ambitions of a Bourassa. But it was the unexpected that happened and the result has been to place Quebec in a position of greater political uncertainty than has been the case at any election since the Liberal party were returned to power in 1896.

What we consider that a Laurier majority of 2,400

in Drummond-Arthabaska was turned by the electors into a minority of 290, and that this result was a direct condemnation of the Government's naval policy, it is evident the discontent and revolt in Quebec is wide spread and not confined within the limits of one constituency. The strenuous campaign now in progress leaves no room for doubt that the Government takes this view of the situation. Not a constituency in Quebec is absolutely safe for Laurier today. With the persistent and steadily growing opposition to the Taff-Fielding pact in the other provinces, and the revolt in Quebec, the Government stands every prospect of annihilation between two fires.

THE RECORD OF 1910-11.

The revised statement of the revenue and expenditure of Canada for the year 1910-11, ending with March 31 last, has been issued. The figures, as has been anticipated, exceed anything in the record, both as regards income and outlay. They speak for themselves. The revenue which amounted to \$117,780,409, came from the following sources:—

Customs taxes	\$ 72,965,394
Excise taxes	89,868,837
Total taxes	\$ 162,834,231
Post office	9,146,952
Public works and railways	10,818,834
Miscellaneous	7,979,391
Total	\$170,779,410

The rapid growth in the revenue is shown by the fact that in 1901-2 it only amounted to \$58,000,790. In the ten years it has more than doubled. In this, however, it has not kept pace with the outlays of the government. These, in 1901-2, amounted to \$60,826,485. Last year they were \$121,509,416, made up as follows:—

Consolidated fund	\$ 87,773,998
Public works, railways, etc.	30,852,863
Railway subsidies	1,234,892
Bounties	1,597,663
Total	\$121,509,416

On the year's operations, therefore, the Government's outlays exceeded its income by \$43,729,007, and by this sum, less some credits to capital account through book-keeping adjustments, etc., the net debt was increased. The net debt on March 31 last was \$340,041,852. On the same day in 1910 it was \$336,268,546. When the Government came into power in July, 1896, the net debt was \$258,544,420.

CANADA'S ALTERNATIVE.

(From the Hamilton Herald, Ind.)
If Canada is to be accorded the right to declare herself free from all obligations imposed by Imperial treaties and Imperial foreign policy whenever it suits her purpose to do so, her right to pursue her own course in matters of foreign policy, apart from the rest of the Empire, is virtually conceded.

But suppose that, in so pursuing her course for the advancement of her own interests alone, and without thought or care for the interests of the other British nations, she gets into an international snarl and is threatened with war; what then? Under such circumstances would a Canadian Government have the frontery and meanness to call upon the Imperial Government and the rest of the Empire to stand by Canada in her danger?

If Canada claims the right to go her own way in matters of foreign policy, she ought to be willing to undertake to rely solely upon herself to meet any danger that may come upon her as the result of her independent action. Not only should she be willing; she ought to be prepared; and in order to be prepared, it would be well to see about the acquirement of a real navy without delay.

Current Comment

(The Pall Mall Gazette.)
Every clear thinker must perceive that a statesman who stands out from treaties desires to stand out from responsibilities, and this means the refraining of the whole position of the Dominion of Canada toward the Mother Country with regard to mutual defence. If Sir Wilfrid plays recalcitrant on a vital matter like this, he may certainly claim consistency with his Reciprocity move, but in plain terms it amounts to this: that he, the senior Premier of the Conference, is abandoning the obligations which his colleagues, even the youngest of them, have acknowledged over and over again.

(Hamilton Herald.)
"Thanks to the attitude of the first minister of Canada, all the imperialistic proposals have been abandoned and the autonomy of the colonies has been affirmed more explicitly than ever."—La Presse, Montreal.
Will Sir Wilfrid's chief claim to Canadiana gratitude and honor in the future be that he did more than any other Canadian to smash imperialism? Evidently this French-Canadian newspaper thinks so. But what about public opinion in Ontario?

(London Free Press.)
Acting Premier Hughes, of Australia, says Sir Wilfrid Laurier's foreign treaty proposals are "entirely opposed to the Imperial idea," and are "a direct negation of Imperial principles." These are strong words, coming as they do from the lips of the acting head of an important branch of the Empire.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)
"We had better annex Canada," says Senator Nelson, of Minnesota. The remark is edited for the press of this country by insertion of the marginal note "half-jesting." It will be remembered that Champ Clark's utterance to the same effect was annotated as "semi-humorous."

(New Bedford Standard.)
John Arthur Johnson, who represents the champion heavyweight pugilist of the world, is attracting rather more notice in England than is John Hays Hammond, who represents the United States of America.

(Kingston Standard.)
The Laurier idea of helping the Empire seems to be to try to dismember it.

CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART

St. Joseph, N. B., June 21.—The closing exercises of the Convent of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart were held today in the presence of a large assemblage. The programme, which was brief, was excellently presented and reflected great credit on both teachers and pupils. At the close of the exercises Father Roy and Father Broughall addressed the students in words of praise and the Sisters in terms of congratulation.

The following diplomas, awards and certificates were presented: Stenography and typewriting—Josephine Savage, St. John, N. B.; M. M. Lorette, St. Joseph, N. B.; Iva Fitzpatrick, Moncton, N. B.; Margaret Carroll, Moncton, N. B.; Paula Ellis, Muscatine, Iowa; Zephie Richard, College Bridge, N. B.; Celina Cormier, Dorchester, N. B.; Eva Bargeon, Campbellton, N. B.; Gertrude Cassidy, Chatham, N. B.

Certificates awarded by the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, London, England: Advanced grade—M. M. Lorette, St. Joseph, N. B.; Higher division—Josephine Savage, St. John, N. B.; Lower division—Gertrude Cassidy, Chatham, N. B.

Elementary division—Zephie Richard, College Bridge, N. B.; Iva Fitzpatrick, Moncton, N. B.; Mary O'Neill, Moncton, N. B.

American Penman awards for excellence in penmanship: Margaret Carroll, Moncton, N. B.; Paula Ellis, Muscatine, Iowa; Lena Bourgeois, College Bridge, N. B.; Sarah Lorette, St. Joseph, N. B.; Mildred Dupuis, College Bridge, N. B.; Ella Chambers, Dorchester, N. B.; Celina Cormier, Dorchester, N. B.; Anna O'Dea, Brooklyn.

Programme: March de Concert—Miss B. Siddale. "Tis Our Festal Day"—Chorus. Piano Solo, "Martha"—Miss C. Gaudet. Piano duet—Misses E. Bergeron, M. M. Lorette. Le Reveil de l'Exile—Chorus. Piano duet—Misses M. M. Lorette, J. Savage. Ave Maris Stella. God Save the King.

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GOVERNMENT TO HOLD IN AGRICULTURAL STUDY

Some time ago the school trustees entered into negotiations with the provincial department of agriculture with a view to having established here in connection with the regular school studies, a special course in agriculture. Later a meeting was held at which Chief Superintendent Carter was present and the matter was fully discussed. It was decided at that meeting to continue the negotiations with Hon. Dr. Landry and a competent teacher in agriculture on the part of the department to supply a competent teacher in agricultural subjects. The local trustees will furnish all equipment, and the ground for the work and will assist as far as possible in forwarding the movement. It is expected that the work will be further developed in the near future so as to include short courses on various branches of agriculture. The trustees have the question under consideration and it is expected that work along the lines suggested will be commenced after the holidays. C. W. McDougall will probably give part of his time to the work. The experiment will be watched with interest. There is no doubt in the minds of business men that too little attention is being given to matters agricultural in the common schools and there is no reason why the opportunity for a grounding in agricultural subjects should not attract a number of students to the Sussex school. It is understood that the educational authorities are working with a view to having such work done in the ordinary school but that will be along somewhat different lines. The start that is now being made should lead to bigger things and the commencement of work here will mark an important epoch in the history of New Brunswick education.

CORONATION DAY PROVED ENJOYABLE

Continued from page 2.
Some Pretty Features.
In striking contrast to the stirring features ahead of them was the next float. It represented Queen Mab surrounded by her fairy cortege. A dozen little girls dressed as fairies and a couple as mermaids made a very dainty and charming picture. Miss Wilkins represented Queen Mab. The Mithras band, comfortably, though none too safely, encoined in a jinkicks, next came in sight. The Eastern potentate was represented by H. J. Anderson and he was surrounded by the high officials of his court and in gorgeous robes. Another pretty feature was the float with a band of tambourine girls, who at intervals in the parade gave an appropriate drill and dance. This float was arranged by D. A. Ramsay.

The Dartmouth fire brigade, which came next, was one of the broad comedy effects produced by the club. The blackened faces and weird costumes conveyed an impression quite in keeping with the quaint apparatus they hauled along with them. A southern cabin mounted on a float completed their outfit. Messrs. J. McLaughlin, Robert Crawford and R. E. March were the organizers. Among those who took part in this feature were: Miles Carroll, chief; C. E. Marquis, district chief; David Perry, Geo. Manning, H. Brown, C. Cochran, Wm. O'Brien, Charles Orr, E. Mackin, T. J. Cain, Geo. Stewart, W. P. Martin, A. Whelpley, A. Cook, F. Winters, Geo. Bannister, A. Jennings, B. Addison, W. Burke and James Peters.

The next float entitled, Protect the Flag, was patriotic in character and aroused cheers at every place. Boys dressed in military suits were the protectors of the national colors. E. McEachern was the organizer of this feature. On the Tally-Ho were Messrs. Gordon, Cromwell, Coggan and London. Canadian Farmers.

In the big combination representing a village were scenes illustrating their in humorous manner every phase of activity relating to rural life; and the various features excited interest and amusement from start to finish. Wm. J. Crawford had charge of this part of the procession. From after him came Thomas Mullet and Patrick Pye who had charge of 40 bushmen. Next in line was Wm. Peter, who represented a teamster and Wm. Watson, who had charge of a plough. Henry McDonnell drove a mowing machine, and A. E. McInnis, a raking machine. Geo. Stephenson, Harold Scott, Wm. McKinlay and James Travers represented a man and wife and two children riding on a load of hay. Wm. Brophy and a gang of haymakers on foot followed. Then came the float bearing the Village Kitchen with Wm. Harding as the old man, Percy Webster as the cook, Joe London as nurse, Robert Connolly and Joe Collins as laundry girls. Ed. McCuskey as girl at the

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churn, Percy Freeze, Thomas Stack, Geo. Freeze and Chas. Paddock, as country musicians. Silas Freeze drove the float which was built on a team owned by the Christie Woodworking Co. Next came the Village Blacksmith float, on which were Andy Hick, Frank Kelly, Wm. E. Ross posed as the village sheriff, and Roland Lobb as the doctor, created much merriment. Albert Crawford, Fred Hunters and others represented sweethearts out for a drive. The whole feature was well thought out, and reflects much credit on W. J. Crawford. The Boy Scouts. Although not turning out as a body a number of the Boy Scouts belonging to the various patrols, assembled at the starting place and were given a position in the line. Their neat uniforms and the scouting equipment which they carried aroused the interest of the spectators all along the route. The Prize Winners. Mayor Fyke, Aid. Jones and Col. Sturdee, who acted as judges, decided that the Zulus were entitled to the first prize; the Dartmouth Fire Brigade to second, and the Village Blacksmith, and the Village Kitchen to third. The judges decided that Queen Mab and her fairies and the Tambourine girls deserved honorable mention. One hundred dollars will be given in prizes.

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