

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1912.

## A POOR EXCUSE.

Referring to Mr. Borden's speech at Ottawa on Imperial Defence, the London Morning Post offers an ingenious excuse for Sir Wilfrid Laurier's opposition to the Canadian Government's strong Imperial policy. The Post suggests that the decision of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to abandon the Imperial highway and wander off into the by-ways of Continentalism and seek Reciprocity with a foreign country was due to the refusal of the Asquith Government to adopt the policy of Imperial Preference, frequently urged by the representative of Canada at Imperial Conferences. The Post does not approve of this want of faith in the future; neither does it believe that Sir Wilfrid Laurier's opposition will carry any weight against the Borden Government's policy of co-operation in Imperial Defence. Dealing with the points mentioned the Post says:

"If Sir Wilfrid Laurier's policy has any influence, it will be to prevent the Dominion Government from proceeding as freely and rapidly as it would otherwise do. An Opposition using economy as its cry, and appealing to the Canadian elector to save money rather than spend it on Imperial Defence, may force Mr. Borden and his colleagues to go somewhat slower than they would otherwise be inclined to go. But they will not be deflected from their aim, and we are confident that they will have the support of the great mass of the Canadian people. The pity of it is that we might have had Sir Wilfrid Laurier with us in this Imperial policy. If he had been treated with fairness and generosity in 1907, when he passionately told the Imperial Conference that Canada had turned her back upon the United States and put all her hope in the British Empire, we should have had this change of attitude. But Sir Wilfrid was told that he could not be treated differently from the foreigner, and he turned in despair to the United States. President Taft was found willing to do more for Canada than Mr. Asquith—that is the lamentable history of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's change of attitude. It might have been avoided, to the great benefit of the Empire. But we have hopes, nevertheless, that all things work together for good. Sir Wilfrid's change of front awakened Canada, and may help to awaken England. Nor do we believe that his opposition will materially alter the policy of co-operation in Imperial Defence upon which the Borden Government is now about to launch."

The excuse which the Post offers as the reason for the change in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's attitude carries no weight when we reflect that two wrongs do not make a right. The Overseas Dominions have been a unit in asking the Mother Country for Imperial Preference since the first Conference in 1902. They have never wavered in their belief that, ultimately, legislation to bring the Empire into closer commercial relations through Imperial Preference would be adopted by a British Government. Confidence in the Asquith Government's attitude on this question, but their policy of Free Trade has long been regarded by the Dominions as a mistake. Looking at the political situation in the United Kingdom there are strong reasons for the belief that the long wished for day is near at hand.

The situation has never justified an abandonment of this steadfast policy of the Dominions for the sake of entering into an entangling trade alliance with a foreign country. President Taft's willingness "to do more for Canada than Mr. Asquith," to which the Post refers, is clearly understood. He was aiming a deliberate and deadly blow at Imperial Preference and he admitted it. This confidential letter to Mr. Roosevelt to the effect that Reciprocity would make Canada "an adjunct" of the United States tended to confirm this fact. If, as the Post suggests, the Leader of the Liberal party in Canada turned in despair to listen to the overtures of Mr. Taft, he was no Imperial statesman. It was an exhibition of weakness from the consequences of which Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Liberal party have heavily suffered.

## GERMANY UNDER PROTECTION.

The Times is apparently much exercised to prove that "the condition of the workingman in free-trade England is much better than in protectionist Germany or France." It quotes Dr. Carl von Tyska, a German economist, who finds "that the German worker is worse off than the worker in either Britain or France." He expresses it in the following statement:

	France.	Germany.	Britain.
Wages .....	100	108.8	136
Cost of necessities .....	100	100.85	85.47

Some information on similar lines is also supplied by Silvio Alberti, an Austrian economist, and the Times concludes that under free trade "the British workman is better paid and gets the necessities of life cheaper than the workman of Germany or France."

The somewhat vague calculations which the Times presents are not justified by authentic reports. Under Protection, Germany, for instance, has risen in the past thirty-two years from a poor and backward country to be the wealthiest nation in Europe and can afford today to challenge Great Britain's naval supremacy on the sea. In the matter of wages it is a safe guide to estimate the wealth of the German working classes by the savings deposited in the savings banks. The British and German savings banks deposits have increased as follows since the time when Germany introduced Protection:

	Savings Banks Deposits in Germany.	Savings Banks Deposits in Great Britain.
1880 .....	\$136,690,000	\$77,721,084
1890 .....	256,885,000	111,235,359
1900 .....	441,929,000	187,005,543
1911 .....	908,000,000	227,907,540

Since 1880 the German people have placed \$770,000,000 and the British people have placed only \$139,000,000 in the savings banks. Between 1900 and 1911, when prices have been increasing all over the world and when wages have remained absolutely stationary in Great Britain, but not in Germany, the German people have placed \$449,000,000 and the British people only \$120,000,000 in the savings banks. Between 1900 and 1911 the German savings banks deposits have grown

more than 11 times as quickly as the English savings banks deposits.

Admissions in the British press that wages in Germany have advanced while in Great Britain they have remained stationary could be multiplied. Taking the wages, for example, of railway employees, the London Daily News, supporting the Government, makes this significant comment: "There is only one word that properly describes existing (British) railway wages—it is the word 'Shameful.'" Comparing this statement with conditions in Germany we find in "Foreign Labor Statistics" that there has been an average rise of about 45 per cent. in the wages of German railway workers in fifteen years. According to the British Board of Trade the wages of railway employees in the United Kingdom have remained at a standstill.

The Westminster Gazette, another supporter of the Government, is responsible for the statement that "in the last half generation British real wages have been stationary or falling." The general rise in money wages in Germany in the decade was 20 to 25 per cent. Against this must be put increased cost of living, but after making that allowance real wages in Germany rose.

In comparing the cost of necessities in the two countries the actual prices ruling in two large cities, one in England and one in Germany, may reasonably be claimed to supply reliable evidence. In a recent issue of the Huddersfield Chronicle, an old established English journal, appeared a report by Mr. George F. Lund who has visited Germany to investigate this question. Taking the prices of thirty necessary commodities in Frankfurt-on-Main, a large German city, and comparing them with prices in Huddersfield, one of England's manufacturing centres, he found that a working man in Germany, purchasing 1 lb. of each article a week, would pay 12s. 3½d., but to a Huddersfield working man the cost would be 14s. 7½d., including seven pints of milk, one dozen eggs, and one dozen bananas, the German would spend 14s. 6½d., and the Huddersfield man 18s. 1½d.

These facts, which are not based on theories, are conclusive evidence that Protection pays. It is not the intention of the Tariff Reform party in Great Britain to establish high protection, which is the policy of Germany, but a moderate tariff to protect home industries, giving all parts of the Empire a preference.

## NAVAL CONTROL.

(Hamilton Herald.)

Although Sir Wilfrid Laurier insists upon his policy of an "autonomous" Canadian navy—one which would not go into active service without the order of the Canadian Parliament—he now modifies his attitude or last year by explaining that "if England were in danger, or even on trial, all Canadians would insist upon our navy going to her assistance."

This admission from the Liberal Leader shows the futility of the "autonomous" policy. In time of danger prompt action is necessary. Delay is often fatal. If a crisis were suddenly to develop, while Cabinet Ministers were deliberating at Ottawa over the question whether the threatened war was one in which Canada should take part, the fighting might be started and a great sea battle fought upon which the fate of the Empire would depend.

The Canadian Navy Act makes provision for having Canadian war vessels co-operate with the British Navy in time of peace. Supposing there were several of our ships in the North Sea when war suddenly broke out. Under the "autonomous" policy they could not co-operate with the Imperial Navy until the Cabinet at Ottawa had discussed the question whether it would be expedient for them to do so—perhaps had summoned Parliament to decide that question. In the meantime the officers and sailors on the Canadian vessels would be condemned to remain safe and idle in port while the King's British ships were engaging the enemy.

Sir Wilfrid himself admits that this would be contrary to the desire of "all Canadians." Well, if that is so, why not give effect to the desire of "all Canadians"? Why not provide that, while the Canadian Navy shall be under the control of the Canadian Government in time of peace, it shall automatically pass into the control of the Imperial naval authorities when the Empire is at war with a maritime power?

## Current Comment

The Price of Potatoes.

(Chatham World.)

A great potato war is raging just now between Liberal and Conservative party organs in St. John and Fredericton, the Liberals proclaiming that farmers are getting only sixty cents for potatoes and the Conservatives quoting higher figures. We don't know the facts as they are in St. John and Fredericton, but we have ascertained, by actual inquiry of the stores where potatoes are sold in Chatham, that \$1.75 a barrel is the cheapest they can be bought for. The dealers say that they pay the farmers \$1.50 a barrel. So if the Telegraph or Mail will send a carload of their 60-cent potatoes on here they will be able to sell them at a good profit.

Apple Culture.

(London Free Press.)

The Lucknow Sentinel tells of a demonstration orchard leased by J. G. Anderson, M.P., in that district. Until this year the orchard never yielded a barrel of marketable fruit, but by proper spraying and cultivation its possibilities have been developed and this year it will yield 75 barrels of the finest fruit. Mr. Anderson has a number of orchards under lease, all of which show surprising results.

How News Travels!

(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)

The non-commissioned officer of the Canadian permanent corps at Fredericton, who broke out of his place of confinement that he might make a 30-foot leap into the St. John river and save two lives, will be forgiven.

A Tough Proposition.

(Bangor News.)

Waldorf Astor, expatriated millionaire American, now a member of the British Parliament, says on arriving in New York that "England has indignation." Of course! Didn't she swallow Waldorf Astor?

Ships That Can Fight.

(Canadian Courier.)

Thus from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Coast there is only one voice and it speaks for a big Canadian Navy. Not a Laurier navy, not a tip-top navy, but a more substantial and effective navy.

Accepted With Thanks.

(St. Louis Republican.)

Mrs. Belmont now has "Votes for Women" printed on her cheques. If the cheques are satisfactory she'll find the sentiment promptly endorsed.

Vain Regrets.

(Windsor Record.)

What annoys us is that we didn't take a fool's advice and start to save our money when living was cheap. ( )

A Lengthy Campaign.

(Columbia State.)

We shall have to put an extra "o" in Moses. The Colonel says his fight began on Mount Sinai.

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**FIRST YEAR'S TERM  
OF LORD KITCHENER  
IS EPOCH IN EGYPT**

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Reforms are Followed by  
Others in Fast Succession.

London, Oct. 11.—Lord Kitchener has returned to Egypt to resume his duties as British agent and consul general. Since he left England a year ago to fill the post vacated by Sir Eldon Gorst and carry on the work begun by Lord Cromer, very many things have happened.

The near east has been in a condition of constant unrest, the war in Tripoli has been in progress, British supremacy in Mediterranean waters has been threatened, while Egypt itself has not been without its agitators and revolutionists. In spite of all difficulties and murmurings, however, British rule has been gathering dignity and strength in Cairo, under the guidance of Kitchener of Khartoum. A correspondent of the Fall Mall Gazette summed up his doings in a letter to that paper. When the historian chronicles the history of modern Egypt, he says, Lord Kitchener's first year of office will be characterized as the most fruitful and epoch-making period in the existence of the country.

Prestige Wanted.  
British prestige was not in the ascendant in 1911, and English officials with the exception of a few isolated cases, were exercising little or no influence in the provinces, owing principally to the fact that the government were uncertain in their bearing towards some important questions and no support could be expected from the British agency. An anti-English campaign was still being waged by the extremists, while the Nationalist press were as unrestrainedly outspoken as ever.

The condition of affairs is changed, and by the action of one man, it was a touch of genius combined with intimate knowledge of native character that prompted Lord Kitchener to arrive at Alexandria in a cruiser. From the moment that the guns on the batteries opened their welcome to the new consul general, British prestige began to mount and has been rapidly ascending ever since.

His long stay reaches the inspectors in the provinces who once more actively reflect the power behind them and where the moula or governors, keen on keeping friends with the man who brooks no inefficiency, are serving the cause of the country with new and vital energy.

Lord Kitchener works hard and keeps in closest touch with all, inspiring them with a zeal, energy and spirit of co-operation unknown a few months ago. He keeps also the doors of the British agency wide open, going down to the provinces and mixing freely with the natives in a way that enhances instead of lowering his status and that of his country, by means of many little acts and touches which he knows well will appeal to the loyalty and respect of the fellah. Kitchener of Khartoum is known and respected and admired throughout the land, and his name stands for fairness and consideration, a remarkable result in so short a time in an oriental country, and one that stands in good stead for the nation that he represents.

Having planted English supremacy firmly in the land he could turn his attention to other equally important reforms, and one new project has followed another in rapid succession. A road has been constructed from Cairo to Helwan and another from Cairo to Alexandria, and this in the teeth of opposition.

Thrift Encouraged.  
In the villages of the Multina savings banks for the encouragement of thrift among the fellahs have been established, and have proved to be extraordinarily successful in their results. A lot of gold will pass into circulation from the hoards of coins amassed and stored up by the fellahs in the cotton crops. The sturdy law has been made to protect the natives from money lenders who can now demand more than 9 per cent. interest upon their loans.

Cantonal tribunals have been established far and wide in the country with a view to dispensing justice to the fellahs, while measures for the improvement of the agricultural conditions have received a large amount of consideration. Selected seed has been introduced and widely distributed to small cultivators. The yield and quality of the cotton will be far better than in former years. A law has been passed, also, to make the mixing of upper and lower Egypt cotton, in the course of ginning, illegal.

HARVESTERS' EXCURSION.

Advice from the West indicates that the demand for labor is more urgent than it has been at any time since the harvest commenced. This is consequent upon the fact that a greater number of men are required to assist in the work of gathering the immense crops, which are the greatest in Canada's history. It will be readily understood that the great task of gathering the crops requires a greater amount of assistance than the mere work of cutting. At the present time there is work for 20,000 men to help in harvesting, and the wages are higher than ever before paid. The extra help cannot be provided in the west, and for the purpose of helping to meet the requirements the Canadian Pacific Railway will run a harvesters' excursion from St. John and points on its line in New Brunswick on October 14th. The rates from all points will be \$12.00 going to Winnipeg and \$18.00 returning. Those from other points in the Provinces will come to St. John or nearest junction point with C. P. R.

W. B. DICKSON, M. P. FOR SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

W. B. DICKSON, M. P. of Hillsboro, has been offered the position of secretary of agriculture, made vacant by the resignation of W. W. Hubbard. Mr. Dickson was in Albert on Friday consulting with his friends as to the advisability of taking the position. It is quite probable that he will accept the job, which is worth \$1,000 a year and expenses.—Chatham Commercial.

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