

"Sir Wilfrid Laurier—I do not understand what my hon. friend means by asking if they should be neutral.

"Mr. R. L. Borden—I understood the Prime Minister to say that our ships would not fight until they were ordered to do so, and, therefore, **THEY WOULD IN EFFECT BE NEUTRAL UNTIL THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAD MADE AN ORDER THAT THEY SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE WAR. HAVE I MIS-STATED MY HON. FRIEND'S POSITION?**

"Sir Wilfrid Laurier—NO.

"Mr. R. L. Borden—Then, inasmuch as our ships, under the conditions mentioned, will be practically neutral, I would like to know whether our ports and harbours will also be neutral in the same way?

"Sir Wilfrid Laurier—I do not understand what my hon. friend means by asking if they would be neutral. If he means after an enemy has come into our harbour, then it will be time to resist them with our fleet.

"Mr. R. L. Borden—But if our ships do not attack the enemy when they meet the enemy on the high seas, on the same principle may not the enemy's fleet come into our harbour without resistance or attack, without fear of aggression? Surely, that can be done, if it is feasible for the country owning those harbours to maintain neutrality on the high seas.

"Sir Wilfrid Laurier—**THAT WOULD BE A QUESTION TO DETERMINE ANY TIME THAT A WARSHIP ENTERED A CANADIAN PORT.**

"Mr. R. L. Borden—The position of the Prime Minister is that ships flying the British flag should meet an enemy on the high seas and not attack them. **THAT IS A NEW TRADITION FOR THE BRITISH NAVY.**" (Hansard, 1909-10, pp. 7461-62.)

All this time the words which tumbled most freely from the lips of Sir Wilfrid Laurier were the words, "autonomy," "neutrality." They meant "independence," "separation."

An Insidious Move

This is well understood by some Liberals and accepted by some Liberals. When the Laurier Government created the Department of External Affairs, the Toronto "Globe" voiced its approval, and based it upon the ground that the step taken was an insidious move toward Canadian independence.

The "Globe" said:—

"The direction and progress of national evolution thus indicated may be too fast for some, and not fast enough for others, but there need be no mistake about the fact of our progress in its direction.

"**THE ANSWER TO THOSE WHO ARE IMPATIENT FOR INDEPENDENCE IS THAT OUR DIRECTION IS THAT WAY, BUT THAT IT IS ON THE WHOLE BETTER THAT IT SHOULD BE SO SLOW AS TO ATTRACT LITTLE ATTENTION AND TO CAUSE NO IRRITATION.**"