

RUMORS OF WAR WORRYING BRITAIN

London, Tuesday, March 11.—The alarming development of European armaments and the open reference of the German press to the possibility of a French war of revenge creates a feeling of anxiety in Great Britain, and the London morning papers express disappointment at the omission in the King's speech at the opening of Parliament of any indication of the Government's intentions with regard to further defensive measures to meet the growth of continental armaments.

The subsequent debate on the address, however, brought an important statement from Premier Asquith. Lord Hugh Cecil had voiced the current rumor that the Government was embarking on a dangerous foreign policy and had entered into an engagement in certain contingencies to throw a British expeditionary army across the Channel.

The Prime Minister suddenly jumped up and said: "I ought to say at once that that is not true."

This explicit denial was received with loud cheers.

BORDEN'S LAST BOLT LETTER FROM WINSTON CHURCHILL ON THE COST OF THE NAVY

Attempts to Show It Is Impossible to Build Fleets Here.

STIRRING REPLY BY MR. TURRIFF

Willing to Trust Self-Reliance and Courage of Canadian People.

Ottawa, March 11.—Awaiting a psychological moment at night, with the galleries crowded, and a full and expectant representation of Government members on the floor, Premier Borden's last bolt on the naval bill. He intervened in the debate to read a long third memorandum from the admiralty, bearing the signature of Right Hon. Winston Churchill, in response to a cable request for release.

The communication was written in response to a letter from Mr. Borden to Mr. Churchill, under date of Dec. 18 last, in which the Canadian Premier stated that he understood the installation of shipyards for the building of war vessels was attended with great difficulties, and in the early stages excessive cost, and seeking confirmation of his view from the admiralty. Premier Borden evidently intended it as the last nail in the coffin of the Laurier proposal for a Canadian navy, and his followers cheered to the echo the intimation that Canada could not do what the motherland, the United States and other nations had done.

Churchill's Note.

Mr. Churchill's communication was dated Jan. 23. He stated that the Canadian navy could not be based on a full knowledge of all the preliminary requirements. It was difficult to get skilled workmen, and the machinery required for the manufacture of armor-plate was complicated and expensive.

It had taken Austria, Japan and Spain, he said, many years to establish their plans for building war vessels, and even now they had to come to England for their largest vessels. Mr. Churchill volunteered the opinion that under present conditions it would be unwise for Canada to undertake the formidable task of entering upon the construction of war vessels of the largest type. It would take four years to prepare the ground, and the enterprise could be justified only on the assumption that Canada was prepared to continue her naval program.

Mr. Churchill drew attention to the fact that the increased cost of building in Canada would probably be from 25 to 30 per cent, while the pay of men would be approximately two-thirds higher than in the imperial navy. He declared that the admiralty would be glad to levy any policy that the Canadian Parliament endorsed, and he added that the difficulties in securing men would be greater than was an

delated at the Imperial Conference in 1909.

A Strong Answer.

Mr. Turriff, who was the first to reply to the Premier, said: "The proud young country which has constructed the world's greatest transportation system, the world's greatest canal system, and many of the other great constructive achievements of humanity, is not afraid to trust herself with other great tasks, nor to rely upon the ability, the energy and the patriotism of her sons."

Mr. Turriff was speaking at the time, and Premier Borden sought permission to take the floor, a permission promptly given. He stated that following the demands for information made by the Liberal leader in the afternoon, he had cabled Mr. Churchill and secured permission to make his letters public. The latter stated it would be necessary to construct the vessels in England, and expressed the view that Canada was not competent to do the task. The Conservative members were all in the chamber, and cheered the reading of the communication vociferously.

Churchill's Figures.

"The First Lord of the Admiralty has what the old Scotchman, Mr. Turriff, continued when Premier Borden resumed his seat, 'and seems to have a very poor concept of his fellow-countrymen in Canada.' But I am sorry to see that the Prime Minister, standing up in Parliament and backing up that opinion of Canada and Canadians, and taking pleasure in doing so, while his members cheer to the echo the intimation that Canadians cannot do any big thing for themselves. It is not a fine example of our indomitable, virile young Canadianism to send out through the length and breadth of the empire, to applaud the declaration of an opinion that Canadians cannot build and cannot man their ships."

"Mr. Churchill tells us that Canada cannot construct shipyards for \$15,000,000, \$17,000,000, while we know that at Fore River in Massachusetts they established a plant for less than four million dollars which within the last few years has included one hundred vessels, including six Dreadnoughts of the largest type. If that is the Canadian Premier's opinion of Canadianism let him appeal to the country and see what the response will be." (Prolonged Liberal cheering.)

The new German naval law called for a corresponding increase in the personnel of the British fleet, and it would be difficult to spare men to form the nucleus of crews for the proposed Canadian naval vessels. Mr. Churchill maintained that Australia had a different position from Canada with regard to the manning of its local fleet in that it directly relieved the strain on the admiralty at the Australian stations. With all the Liberal declared, the admiralty could not undertake to meet the task of manning two Canadian fleet units.

Mr. Carvell following Mr. Turriff, pointed out that Mr. Churchill's statement was not well acquainted with Canadian conditions. Otherwise, he would not have made so much of his objection as to the inability of Canadian enterprise and industry to meet

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the requirements of modern manufacturing. Canada was now turning out steel-making and electrical products equal to anything in the world. The Liberals did not contend that the Dominion should at once start to manufacture the highest class of guns and armor-plate which entered into the equipment of battle-ships. Just as England herself had to import from Germany some of the equipment of battleships, Canada could also at the same time import the motherland's special armament required until the industry here had been gradually built up.

Sir Wilfrid.

It was eight minutes to 4 o'clock when the House again went into committee of the whole for the further consideration of clause 2 of the Borden navy contribution bill. The Liberals greeted the procedure with applause, which was vigorously answered when Mr. F. B. Carvell, who had the floor at the midnight adjournment, yielded to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The Liberal chief was given an ovation by his followers as he resumed the big constitutional struggle.

Sir Wilfrid pressed for authentic information and figures relative to the cost of construction. It was to be expected that the Government, in submitting such an important proposal, changing the whole plan of Canadian procedure, and development, and negatively the existing policy of the Parliament of 1909, would have submitted a complete case, and fully authenticated and accurate information upon which its action was taken. Instead of this, Premier Borden had already been twice under the necessity of acknowledging that the information which he had given the House was inaccurate, and had promised at a subsequent stage to give further information.

Sir Wilfrid read from the papers brought down the communications from the colonial office, but pointed out that the return was incomplete and to some extent unintelligible until the communications from the Canadian Government, to which these letters were acknowledgments, had been tabled.

Premier Borden explained that he noticed the inaccuracies complained of himself. They were, he said, the result of mistaken reckonings by the officials of the marine department, and he had had them corrected. He also explained to Mr. Carvell that the report of his statement as it appeared in Hansard was not as he gave it. There were some words omitted.

(Liberal laughter.)

Sir Wilfrid Laurier directed attention to the letter of Premier Borden to First Lord of the Admiralty Churchill, asking for information "to be placed before Parliament, if required," and took objection to part of Mr. Churchill's response being withheld. Premier Borden replied that the portions of the letter withheld from the House were not relevant.

The Liberal leader was sure to recognize that nothing could be more germane. "Objection has been taken to the plan for the upbuilding of a Canadian navy on the ground that it would be infinitely more expensive," he said. "The Premier has produced and made it public, and withheld what does not suit him. I do not wish to cast any reflection on his motive, but we have shown that there is a wide difference between the information which he has supplied us and that which the admiralty supplied, and already in one or two matters we have shown his conclusions to be incorrect. If these matters are not confidential there is no reason why they should not be conveyed to the country. It is a duty I submit my right honorable friend owed to Parliament before he forced the House into a continuous discussion of the matter."

Sir Wilfrid rose again. "My right honorable friend, the Premier, has a strange conception of this matter," he observed.

"I understood him to tell me that the communication was not confidential, and that he was going to lay it before Parliament. Now what I desire to know unequivocally is whether he deems it confidential or not."

"My right honorable friend, he had obtained permission to lay the portions submitted before the House."

"I am sorry to say it, but, if from a document forwarded in response to a request for information to be laid before Parliament, now what I desire to know unequivocally is whether he deems it confidential or not."

"My right honorable friend, he had obtained permission to lay the portions submitted before the House."

"But you are not willing to trust my judgment?" put in Mr. Borden.

"Precisely," responded Sir Wilfrid.

"Frankly, I have no common sense at all," began Mr. Borden.

"It is not that," persisted Sir Wilfrid. "Information had been asked for not only by the Government, but, as definitely stated in the Premier's letter, to be laid before the House and the people, 'who, after all, must judge,'" added Sir Wilfrid, while the Liberal chief

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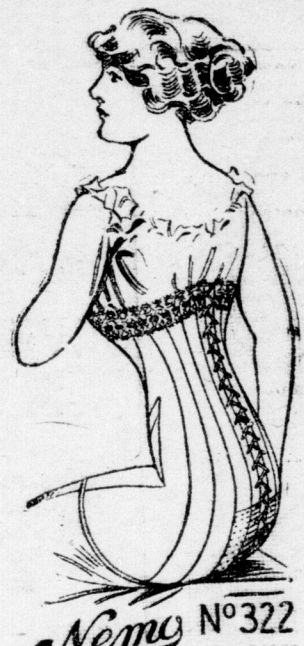
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WELD DOMINIONS TO MOTHERLAND

Asquith Says Various Naval Policies Will Help Consolidate Empire.

DISCUSSED BY THE LORDS

Lord Lansdowne Refers to Canada's Desire To Have Own Navy.

London, Tuesday, March 11.—Timely assistance by the overseas Dominion in regard to the imperial navy defence was referred to in congratulatory terms during the discussion of the King's speech. In the House of Lords yesterday Lord Lansdowne declared that the sacrifices the dominions are prepared to make to lighten the burden of the mother country in naval defence would undoubtedly bring a valuable accession to the Empire at the moment when such an accession is greatly needed. Earl Crewe said that while the Dominions were animated by a similar spirit, yet they had taken definite and sometimes opposite views as to the best method of tendering co-operation. Some of them have been disposed to lay more stress than others upon the necessity of maintaining national control in a local sense over a contribution to the common defence, but even among these, with whom there has been a desire to retain local control there has been a full recognition of the fact that however independent a dominion navy may be in its control and management, yet if in the time ever comes when the navies have to work side by side it is on different footing from the navy of the allied power.

throughout the world had been the welding together of the British Empire. Everyone in the House and the country must rejoice at the alacrity with which the overseas dominions have shown themselves ready to help. He ventured to hope that the movement towards a closer union, which has come as a result of consulting them about defence, will in many ways and with the utmost rapidity go further and become still closer than in the past.

Premier Asquith said: "Whatever we may think as outsiders of the increase in armament which is taking place in other countries of the world from our own imperial point of view, there can be no doubt that it has, it has tended to weld together and consolidate feeling in all parts of the empire, and that we must act together as one united body for the preservation of these interests in which not only the mother country, but all the outlying parts of the empire are equally concerned."

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