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NAVY COMPROMISE PLAN FROM CONSERVATIVE SIDE; BORDEN IS WEAKENING

W. F. Maclean Suggests the Gift of Two Dreadnoughts.

AND UNITS FOR THE PACIFIC

Premier Gives an "Explanation" of the Winston Churchill Cable.

Ottawa, March 13.—An appeal for a compromise to relieve the strain of the present situation came from the Government benches today. Taking advantage of Premier Borden's motion to adjourn at four o'clock for a few hours, out of respect to the memory of the late Hon. John Hazen, Mr. W. F. Maclean rose from his seat in the front row of the Government benches, and suggested that the occasion was opportune for the House to seriously consider whether or not it would be both in the interests of the country and of the em-

pire to pause in the present strife and honestly endeavor to effect some arrangement which would enable both parties to agree on a common plan of co-operation in imperial defence. He suggested an amalgamation of the Laurier and Borden naval policies. Instead of three Dreadnoughts, the Liberals might consent to make it two, as an immediate contribution to the imperial fleet, while the Government might meet the Liberal contention at half-way, and agree to a fleet unit on the Pacific in co-operation with Australia and New Zealand.

Maclean's Proposal. Mr. Maclean's compromise proposals were somewhat vague as to the details of their working out. He was for both solidarity and autonomy, and he was against closure, at least during the course of the present constitutional struggle. However, much individual supporters of the Government would welcome a compromise with the Liberals, and a way out of their present embarrassing situation, they evidently did not relish this public confession of weakening, and comments from the ministerial side after the House adjourned were by no means complimentary to the member for South York. On the Liberal side there was absolutely no disposition to accept anything less than the principle which they have consistently contended for throughout. So far as they are concerned the only outcome must be the dropping of the bill in favor of the policy enunciated by the un-

animous resolution of 1909, or else an appeal to the people.

This debate was continued throughout the day with undiminished vigor from the Liberal benches. In the early hours of this morning the two hundred hour mark of continuous debate since the deadlock started was passed. The fundamental and larger issues of the question, apart from contrasting merits of the two concrete proposals before Parliament, are being pressed home with ever-increasing force and dominate the discussion.

German on Churchill. "Who told Mr. Churchill that Canada ever intended to build battleships of the largest type?" demanded Mr. W. M. German, of Welland, in criticizing the memorandum. The Liberal party had never advocated the building of the largest vessels in Canada, he added, and no one else had ever advocated it.

Mr. German indulged in a little satire at the expense of Mr. W. R. Northrup, of Hastings. He seems much concerned about the matter of riveting, but probably he is more anxious to be riveted to a judicious than he is to see warship factories, commented the Welland member. While Mr. German was scoring the Churchill document Hon. Sam Hughes interrupted with the question: "Does the hon. member contend that there is anything in the memorandum which any school boy could not have worked out with a few hours' trouble?"

"Not a line," came the answer. Mr. German characterized the proposed measure as useless and mischievous, because there was already a navy law, and mischievous because it would divide the Canadian people.

Hon. Mr. Lemieux. Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux followed Mr. German till the 4 o'clock adjournment. He devoted most of his time to refuting the conclusions reached by Mr. Churchill in his letters, and pointing out that these conclusions were based upon misconceptions resulting from the information furnished him as to Canadian conditions. He quoted from naval experts who had made a special study of Canadian conditions, and who had reached the conclusion that Canadian resources for the manufacture of steel and nickel, and natural maritime advantages made it easy for Canada to develop a naval force of her own, and to build the most modern and efficient war vessels. In the case of the Ross rifle there had been similar objections as to the inability of Canadians to manufacture efficient small arms. But today the Ross rifle was acknowledged to be the superior of any military rifle used at Bisley.

Canada not only could import experts, if needed, to develop a new battleship building industry, but Canada had already shown to the world that she could export experts in all the great lines of industry. Canada had supplied Sir Percy Grouard, the greatest engineer to Kitchener; she had given Sir Archibald Douglas, as an admiral, to Britain, and he had been selected by the British Government to train naval officers and sailors for the Japanese navy. Mr. Churchill evidently ignored the spirit and capacity of Canadians. In the past thirty years, said Mr. Lemieux, there had been shown more grit, courage and energy in Canada than in Great Britain herself. The people who did not shrink from building the C. P. R. and the National Transcontinental Railways need not be daunted in the face of any other "impossible achievement."

Mr. Lemieux further dealt with the armor-plate monopoly of Great Britain, which had its ring of jingoistic papers around the empire and whose echoes were heard even in Montreal and Toronto.

Mr. Robb, who resumed the debate this evening, suggested that some of the \$35,000,000 naval gift should be expended in giving Mr. Churchill a trip for education throughout the overseas Dominions. He could take a Canadian ship at Liverpool for Canada and travel by a Canadian ship to Australia. Canadians, of course, were not supposed to be able to build anything, but Mr. Churchill might see in the Canadian

cities thousands of his fellow-Britons engaged in building engines and handling cranes far larger than those which Mr. Churchill apparently thought could not be constructed here. "If," said Mr. Robb, "we accept his statement that we can never look forward to building ships or larger and better engines, the logical sequel is that the same gentleman should devise a policy whereby all Canadians must buy their cottons in Birmingham and all their machinery in Manchester."

"I come from the most Protestant county in Quebec," said Mr. Robb, "but I would have small chance of getting re-elected if I favored this policy of the Government. My constituents are absolutely opposed to a policy of contribution, and I must say in all fairness that they are not very much enthused with any policy of spending large sums on the navy."

When Mr. Robb went on to speak of the treatment of Quebec Protestants by the Laurier and Borden Governments, getting three representatives from the former and none from the latter, Chairman Blondin intimated that this was rather far afield from the naval debate. The member, however, pointed out that it was the Government's desire to placate the Nationalists on the navy question which had led to the formation of a cabinet in which for the time time since confederation there was no Protestant from Quebec.

Mr. A. Lechance followed Mr. J. A. Robb, speaking in French until midnight. Mr. G. Boyer, of Vaudreuil, also speaking in French, held the fort until an early hour this morning.

Borden Vague. The reluctant manner in which Premier Borden is gradually divulging information asked for by the Opposition, and to which Parliament was clearly entitled, was strikingly emphasized at the night session, when in answer to a request from Mr. Carvell to lay on the table of the House the cable—which had been sent to the admiralty for the release of the Churchill letters, and for the answer to that cable, Mr. Borden delivered a long and somewhat devious explanation.

He first took occasion to make a belated statement as to certain misapprehensions which he believed existed in connection with the admiralty memorandum, upon which the present proposals are alleged to have been based. It had been said that Mr. Monk had resigned from the cabinet, owing to his disagreement with the Borden proposals. Before the memorandum on which these proposals were based was received.

"But," Mr. Borden explained somewhat haltingly, "we had been in receipt of the information in much fuller and more confidential form about the end of September. The admiralty memorandum, which was presented to the House at the beginning of the session, has been divested of the confidential matter."

It is to be noted that this is the first information which the House has ever had concerning the first document, and it is considered strange, in view of repeated requests for explanations from the Premier, that they should only be given at this late date.

"Explains" That Cable.

Proceeding to the matter of the more recent memorandum concerning the cost of building ships in Canada, and to the request of Mr. Carvell for the cables, the Prime Minister stated that the cable asking for a release of the matter in order that it might be brought before the House had been sent on Tuesday or Wednesday of last week, he was not sure which, and it did not much matter. It was on Sunday, he thought, that he was informed that an answering cable had arrived. He had ordered that it be transcribed and the letters prepared for presentation to the House.

"I had hoped," said Mr. Borden, "that they would be ready when the House went into committee at noon, but they were not placed in my hands until after the debate had taken place. I came into the House with the memorandum at about 5.30, and found the member for Carleton speaking. After consultation with my colleagues I decided not to ask the member for Carleton to yield the floor to me. My honorable friend, Mr. Carvell, had given it to you," interrupted Mr. Carvell with some asperity.

"I had not the temerity to interfere with my honorable friend," said the Premier, evidently ill at ease, and the Liberal members laughed sardonically. The Premier explained that he had come to the House later. He had then requested Mr. Turfitt to relinquish the floor to him. "You might have given it to you," interrupted Mr. Carvell with some asperity.

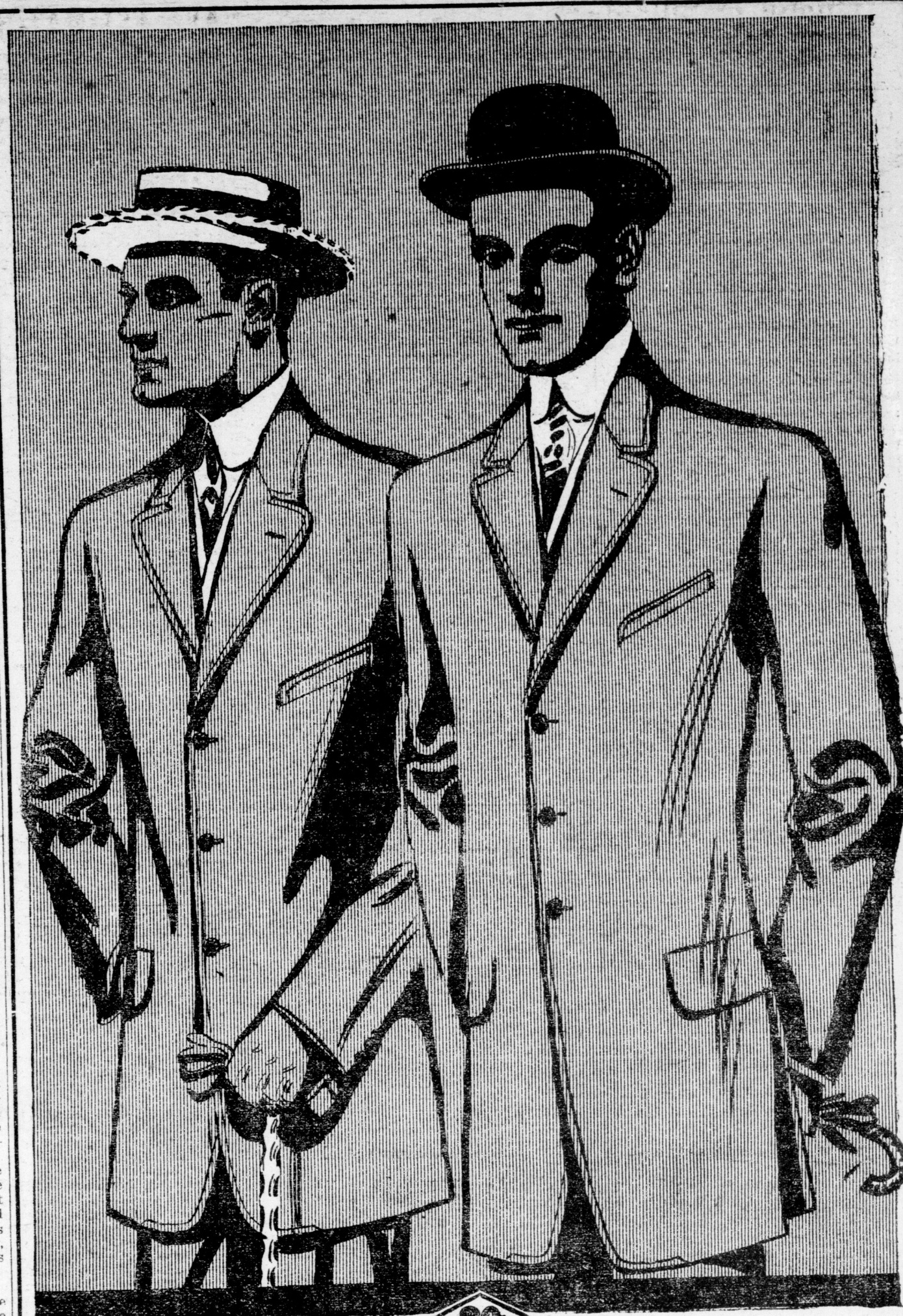
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It is a matter of common knowledge that Conservative members were in possession of the contents of the memorandum early in the afternoon. Just why the Prime Minister had to consult his colleagues on the question of asking Mr. Carvell for the floor is hard to understand, whether it was his intention to comply with the request of Mr. Carvell and bring down the cables.

PROTESTING AGAINST LINE FROM LONDON

St. Thomas Sends Delegation to Toronto to Talk to Commission.

St. Thomas, March 13.—A joint meeting of the city council and St. Thomas Board of Trade was held today in order to enter a protest to the hydro-electric commission over the proposed route of the new hydro radial lines through Western Ontario. At a meeting in Chatham a few days ago it was proposed that the line be built directly west to Chatham, leaving out St. Thomas and all the towns along the southern route west of St. Thomas. These municipalities claim that the radial line was to follow the hydro-electric line through St. Thomas and to the west to Windsor. A delegation from St. Thomas visited Toronto today, conferring with the hydro-electric commission, and meeting with representatives from all the towns west of here is to be held in St. Thomas on March 20 to consider the proposition.



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DIAZ IS THROUGH

Will Not Return to Mexico Unless the United States Invades.

[Canadian Press.] Naples, March 13.—General Porfirio Diaz declared today that he would not return to Mexico. He was looking well on his arrival from Egypt aboard the Adriatic, and in reply to inquiries said that his only desire was to be allowed to rest quietly. He stated, however, that all his efforts would be directed toward assisting his country to reach a condition of prosperity.

The former dictator added emphatically that he would go back to Mexico in case of intervention in that country by the United States, when Mexican citizens without distinction would be united against the foreign invader. General Diaz intends to remain here a few days.

FIGHTING AT NOGALES

Federal Troops Attack Rebel Defenders From Three Sides.

[Canadian Press.] Nogales, Ariz., March 13.—Firing began at daybreak on three sides of the Mexican town of Nogales. The Sonora state troops used grenades in their attack. Dr. Gustetter, who had crossed the line to attend the wounded, reported that 17

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GENUINE must bear signature.

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of the defenders had been killed and 11

At this time the firing became scattering, and mostly centred upon the

left flank.

The United States troops patrolling the

border unlimbered two machine guns on

Hecomb Hill, commanding the two

and.

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