

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1914.

THE PREMIER'S STATEMENT.

In no uncertain terms the Premier of Canada, speaking from his place in the House of Commons, yesterday afternoon, told the world that Canada, at the earliest possible moment, will provide three ships for the defence of the Empire and will also co-operate with the British Admiralty in any agreement it may be possible to formulate for the reduction of armaments. Not less important in its effect upon the future of responsible government in the Dominion was his declaration that the Government is prepared to consider the question of reforming the Senate to bring it into harmony with the popular will of the people. Until this is accomplished the partisans in the Red Chamber will not be given another opportunity to humiliate the Canadian people in the eyes of the world.

The declaration of the Premier is clear and consistent. As long as the need exists for Canada to bear her share of the Empire's burdens the Premier is determined that no political considerations shall stand in the way of liquidating the obligation, and in the manner suggested by the British Admiralty. At the same time, if the Sea Lords of Britain are able to state the armament race of other powers, competitors with Britain for the supremacy of the seas, Canada will gladly co-operate in whatever plan is proposed. In either case, it is the determination of the Conservative Government, expressed through the Prime Minister, that Canada shall at all times be found side by side with the motherland ready to carry out the wishes of the British Government.

That this is the true patriotic stand will at once appear to every Canadian. The burdens of Empire have long been borne on Britain's shoulders. Canada is now well able to assist and the Government will see to it that this assistance shall be given. In the face of a declaration such as this the separatist policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his handful of opportunists shrivel into insignificance.

Mr. Hon. R. L. Borden has decided that the Canadian Government shall fulfill the will of the people and willingly discharge Canada's obligation to the Empire. Measured in the light of such a broad patriotic statesmanlike policy how mean and petty appears Sir Wilfrid Laurier's talk of emergencies created by armament trusts and tribute money to Britain. The Canadian Premier and the Leader of the Liberal Opposition stood revealed yesterday in their true colors, the Premier as a patriotic constructive Imperial statesman, treating big questions from a big man's standpoint, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, as ever, the opportunist and trifler, considering nothing but the party viewpoint, leaving the broad road of statesmanship for the twisted by-path of partisan politics and small bore criticism.

WHY THE INACTION?

Do the civic authorities and the members of the St. John Board of Trade, particularly the president, Mr. John M. Robinson, and the secretary, Mr. H. T. Hoag, realize the danger in permitting to remain uncontradicted the slanderous statements on the Bay of Fundy, now finding circulation in many newspapers in Canada? The Standard prefers to believe that these gentlemen would not willingly allow an injury to be done to the Port of St. John, but it must be confessed that their inaction at the present time is puzzling.

On Saturday an evening paper published a report that the Board of Trade would take steps to contradict the statements of Captain Cliff. Yesterday a Standard representative interviewed President Robinson and Secretary Hoag and was met with the information that the board did not intend to do anything, as to act would only be to stir up newspaper controversy. Secretary Hoag was non-committal but pleaded that he did not know what the board intended to do as the president would notify him if action were to be taken.

In the meantime our enemies are busy. Captain Cliff's attack upon the Bay of Fundy has been supplemented by F. W. Wallace, editor of the Canadian Fisherman, who, in an interview in the Montreal Star of January 14th, says: "You can take it from me, and I have been in most parts of the globe, that there is no worse place than the Bay of Fundy in winter. People talk of the North Sea, of Cape Horn, but in the Bay of Fundy even the most experienced skipper does not know what is coming next. There has to be taken into consideration the fog, snow, gales, ripe, the abnormal tide, and, last of all, the multitudinous ledges and shoals all the way up to St. John."

The Star follows the statement with the observation that Mr. Wallace, the authority for the slander on the Bay "knows all about where the steamer

Cobequid ran ashore." This statement is false on the face of it for the Cobequid was not in the Bay of Fundy, a fact that can be proven by reference to a map or chart.

The Halifax Echo quotes the statements of Captain Cliff and of Mr. Wallace and gives them editorial approval in the course of an article headed "The Approach to St. John." It is not advisable that the rivalry between St. John and Halifax, which hitherto has been friendly, should become bitter, but a fair question is: "Would the Halifax Echo have given prominence to the attacks upon this port and the Bay route if it did not hope that such a course might tend to discredit St. John and hamper us in our campaign for the winter trans-Atlantic business?"

The answer is obvious. St. John is being attacked by interested enemies who hope to profit through the loss of business from this port. In the light of this fact what is the excuse for the silence of the Board of Trade? Fear of arousing newspaper controversy? Nonsense. No such fear deterred them when the Empress steamers were transferred to Halifax and the controversy that followed was bitter. This present situation appears to contain the germ of a greater menace, and yet the responsible officers of the Board of Trade tell us they will not act for fear of arousing newspaper controversy.

It is up to the citizens. Are the business men who, although they do not hold office in the Board of Trade, have contributed to make the work of the board a possibility, content to permit a campaign of slander and misrepresentation to be carried on uncontradicted? Where is the spirit of St. John, that spirit that seems to inspire fear in Halifax? It is time for St. John to fight and fight in earnest. Whether or not the Board of Trade desires to stir up newspaper controversy, something should be done and speedily. President Robinson and his fellow members should be definitely heard from. Silence and inaction will give certainty to what has for some time existed as a suspicion, that the St. John Board of Trade as an active organization is losing its grip. Board of Trade officials themselves have the power to prove the suspicion incorrect.

INCONSISTENT AS EVER.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's utterances in the House of Commons yesterday indicate that the Liberal leader is rather proud of the part he and his partisans played last session in trying the hands of the Government so that effective aid to the Empire has so far been impossible. Also, he has no apology to make for robbing the farmers of this country of the benefits they would have received from improved roads, made possible by the aid the Government would have given had it not been that the senatorial henchmen of Sir Wilfrid strangled the bill. Yet, before the session is much older we may expect to see the same Sir Wilfrid on his feet pleading with all his well known and acknowledged eloquence for a measure of relief to the consumers in the cities who, he will tell us, are hard put to it to buy bread at present prices.

Sir Wilfrid were really sincere, if his honesty of purpose matched his readiness of tongue, he would not have dared to defend yesterday, the action of his Senate puppets in killing the good roads bill. Sir Wilfrid himself must know that if the roads of the country are improved to make it possible for farmers to get their goods to market more easily, and with less expense, that in itself will do something toward lightening the burden of the consumers in the cities, for whom the free food advocate displays an affection as ardent as it is recent.

The people of Canada will not be deceived. Since the last session the Liberal leader has placed himself on record as favoring action to reduce the cost of living. The plan he had in mind was to reduce, or abolish, the duties on foodstuffs coming into Canada and thereby improve the lot of the consumers in Canada to the extent of thirty cents per head per year. Yet when an opportunity was afforded last session to express himself in favor of a measure which, if passed, would have done much to reduce the cost of many articles of food, he refused to assist. On the contrary he, yesterday, approved the action of the Senate which deprived the consumers in Canada of any measure of relief that might have come through cheaper farm produce made possible by better roads and less expense in getting produce to market.

This reveals the real Laurier, the opportunist, the preacher of a different gospel for every congregation, the champion of the people, who loudly proposes to lighten the burden of the consumer with a thirty cent cop and yet applauds the action of his followers when they kill a measure designed

ed to improve the lot of the very people whose plight he claims to be. Sir Wilfrid is consistent only in his inconsistencies. His address of yesterday showed that he still merits the title conferred upon him some time ago, "Mr. Facing Both Ways."

Diary of Events

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

When the Inman line ship City of Boston sailed away from Halifax forty-four years ago today, with many Canadians on board, Sir was bound for England. Yet week after week passed, while the relatives and friends of those on board hoped against hope, but the City of Boston did not reach her destined harbor. The weeks merged into months, and the months into years, and the City of Boston has long since been numbered among that phantom fleet "that sailed and came back never more." Recalling the mysterious disappearance of the face of the deep of the City of Boston, many Canadians may say with Aldrich:

My eyes are wet with tears, and my heart is numb with woe,—
 It seems as if it were yesterday, and it was long ago!

When she sailed from Halifax the City of Boston had nearly 200 people on board. She was an excellent ship, one of the best of her day. Some sixteen of her crew were never seen again, for the sea gave up not a hint of the time, the place nor the manner of the City of Boston's loss. Some sixteen years before another Inman boat, the first vessel of that line, disappeared quite as mysteriously, and nothing was ever known of the fate of her 430 passengers nor the seventy-five members of her crew.

THE PASSING DAY

A FAMOUS JUDGE

David Wilmut, author of the famous anti-slavery "proviso" which bears his name and which was the basis of the Free Soil party and later of the Republican party, was born in Bethany, Pa., a century ago today. He was a member of the United States Congress from 1847 to 1851. In 1850, while a bill authorizing the president to expend \$3,000,000 in negotiations for peace with Mexico, by purchase of territory, was pending in the House of Representatives, that Wilmut became an international figure by adding an amendment:

"That, as an express and fundamental condition to the acquisition of any territory from the republic of Mexico by the United States, neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in any part of said territory."

This proviso was adopted by the House, but failed of final action, yet in its results it was of great importance. It marked a broad line of division in politics, splitting both parties and pointing the way for the union of all shades of anti-slavery sentiment, and the principle of freedom for the territories. The Liberal party was the first result of the Wilmut proviso, and in 1848 it was merged into the Free Soil party, a political organization which made Wilmut's proviso its principal plank. The seceders from the Democrats and Whigs launched the Free Soil party at a convention held in Buffalo in 1848. Martin Van Buren was nominated for president, and Charles Francis Adams for vice-president. The ticket received a popular vote of 291,000, but not a single electoral vote. In 1852 the Free Soilers at their Pittsburgh convention, named John P. Hale for the presidency, but his vote was small. The compromise measures of 1850 and the virtual repeal of the Missouri compromise in the act for the creation of Nebraska in 1854 vastly increased the strength of the Free Soilers, and they formed the nucleus of the great Republican party in 1856.

David Wilmut left Congress and became a judge in Pennsylvania. He was not only one of the inspirers, but also one of the pioneers in the actual formation of the Republican party. At the Chicago convention which nominated Abraham Lincoln for the presidency he was elected to the chair of the man. Wilmut's last public service was in the United States Senate in the civil war period, and he died in Towanda, Pa., in 1868.

ST. AGNES'S EVE

St. Agnes's Eve will be observed tonight by many fair maidens who have a curiosity as to the identity of their future husbands. Keats, in his "Eve of St. Agnes," wrote thus of this old belief in the matrimonial revelations of the good Saint Agnes:

They told her how, upon St. Agnes's Eve,
 Young Virgins might have visions of delight,
 And soft adorings from their loves receive
 Upon the honey'd middle of the night.
 If ceremony due they did aright;
 As, carelessness to bed they must retire,
 And couch supine their beauties, lily white,
 Nor look behind nor sideways, but require
 Of heaven with upward eyes for all that they desire.

A POET AND A PORK PIE.
 Richard Le Gallienne, the poet, drew his first breath in the poetical atmosphere of Liverpool, England, forty-eight years ago today. He began his career as a business man in his native city, but soon abandoned commerce for literature. For over a decade he has been a resident of New York. That the gifted poet has much in common with ordinary mortals may be judged from the following selection from his account of his last trip to England:

"I had all but forgotten that there was so noble a thing in the world as an old-fashioned English pork pie. Yesterday I saw one in a window, with such a thrill of recognition, that I asked with whom I was talking, and thought for a moment that I had seen a ghost. He knows nothing of the human heart who cannot realize how something with ancient heart-breath can be the sight of an old-fashioned pork pie—after the years in America. Something or other in the English voice which I heard long since and lost while amuse me with a peculiar pleasure, and though I like the comradely American 'Gy' or 'Professor'—and am hoping soon to hear it again—yet the novelty of being addressed once more as 'Sir' has had, I must own, a certain antiquarian charm."

IN LIGHTER VEIN

AND HE DID.



AND HE DID.

Practical Physico.
 Motorist—What do you mean by making me slack up? You needn't shilly-shally about an old horse like that shying!
 Farmer—Maybe, sir, but he's a bit shaky on the legs and I had to think of the draught!

The Puzzle Solved.

Lecturer—Why is there not enough food for all—why?
 Voice—Too many farmers! They eat four times as much at meals as city folks.

Marvelous.

Allys—Albert promised me he wouldn't smoke a cigarette for two days.
 Ethelred—He'll keep his promise; that boy has wonderful will power.

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Not Quite.
 Professor—When your father attended this college he stood far higher than the other scholars.
 Younger man—But, you see, I'm not as tall as father was.

In an Art Gallery.
 She—I wonder why they hung that picture.
 He—Perhaps they couldn't catch the artist.

His Little Joke.
 Wife (with newspaper)—What next! Here's a woman mate of a ship. Fancy a woman sailor.
 Hub—That's nothing. Wain't Lot's wife a female salt?

Real Optimism.
 Our idea of an optimist is one who demands that grand opera be rendered in English, on the theory that everybody could understand it then.

Wise Spiders.
 The spiders read this sheet and then they prove that they are wise. They go and spin their webs with men who never advertise.

What's a Fellow to do Then?
 "Never flirt with fortune, my boy."
 "No! But what if she smiles at me?"

That's What They Do.
 "Have you ever noticed one odd thing about birds, people?"
 "What is that?"
 "They are the ones who generally come to the point."

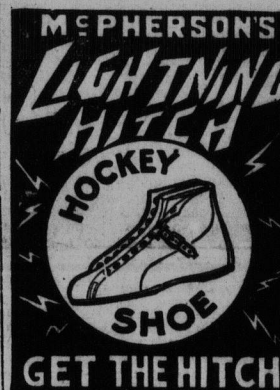
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 "I wouldn't say 'cast off.' You've never heard of anybody casting off a porous plaster, have you?"

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