

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 1912.

## CANADA AND THE NAVAL SITUATION.

Two important announcements, which the trend of events places in intimate relation, were made by Mr. Winston Churchill in his speech introducing the supplementary naval estimates. The announcement that the Canadian Government are prepared to make an addition to the existing British programme, should the immediate future require such action, "directly strengthening the naval forces of the Empire and affording a margin available for its security," has a world wide significance, indicating that Canada has finally abandoned the old and unworthy policy of isolation and optional neutrality and is prepared with the other Sister Dominions to co-operate in Imperial naval defence. The decision of the Admiralty to maintain the 60 per cent. standard to meet the provisions of the new German Naval Act is also of international significance. The naval supremacy of Great Britain is to be maintained at all costs. As Mr. Churchill has so clearly expressed it: "We must have an ample margin of strength instantly ready. There must be steady and systematic developments of our naval forces untrammelled and pursued over a number of years."

Speculation at this time as to the exact form and extent of the Dominion's contribution would neither be profitable nor, as Mr. Churchill wisely pointed out, in the general interest. The decision of the Canadian Government not only welcome but are entirely satisfied with the assurances they have received from Mr. Borden is plainly indicated by Premier Asquith. "Whatever that announcement may be," he said, "I am perfectly certain that it will be adequate to the dignity and patriotic spirit of the Canadian people, and that we shall receive it here with the utmost gratitude as an acknowledgment that we are true co-partners in this great Empire, and that its burdens and its responsibilities will be shared between the Mother Country and the Dominion. We cannot, in peace or war, isolate ourselves from one another."

"We cannot, in peace or war, isolate ourselves from one another." The future policy of the Mother Country and the Dominion Overseas is here clearly defined. No more scathing arraignment of the Laurier naval policy could have been uttered than in these words of the British Prime Minister. The record of past Imperial Conferences shows that Sir Wilfrid Laurier absolutely refused to co-operate with the Admiralty in any scheme of naval defence. While other Dominions welcomed the opportunity to give substantial aid, Canada, the premier Dominion, was compelled to stand aloof.

The evidence on this point cannot be disputed. At the Imperial Conference of 1907, when Dr. Smartt, a delegate from South Africa, proposed a resolution simply affirming the principle of co-operative aid, leaving the amount and method to be determined by each Dominion, Sir Wilfrid Laurier bluntly told the Conference that Canada, which at this time was doing absolutely nothing, could not undertake to do "more." "For my part," he said, "if the motion ever passed to a conclusion, I should have to vote against it." When Dr. Smartt urged him to accede to the principle, he replied: "I have said all I have to say on the subject." When the desirability of having the Conference unanimous was again urged, this time by Sir Joseph Ward of New Zealand, Sir Wilfrid said: "I am sorry to say that this is a question upon which we could not be unanimous. Dr. Smartt can move it if he chooses, or withdraw it, but if he presses it, I should have to vote against it."

The motion was dropped. "The opportunity thus offered to Canada to join with her Sister Dominions in pledging loyal support and cooperation in the naval defence of the Empire was lost." The holding of the Imperial Naval Defence Conference in 1909 and the decision of the Laurier Government, under force of circumstances, to organize a small local navy which "might," if the Government thought fit, assist the Empire in time of war, were subsequent events which have recently been referred to in these columns. The whole scheme proved abortive and never materialized. The ships would have been obsolete by the time they were built. As a result Canada possesses today two, or three, useless, training ships to prepare cadets for a navy which does not exist. This, in brief, is the past record of the Laurier Government's naval policy.

The policy of the Conservative party under the leadership of Mr. Borden has never swerved from the belief that Canada as an integral part of the Empire should participate in Imperial Naval Defence. Speaking on this point in the House of Commons in February, 1910, Mr. Borden said:

What the people of this country want, as far as any man can judge who has observed currents of public opinion, what the people of this country desire, is immediate and effective aid to the Empire, and to have any proposals of a permanent character very carefully considered and matured, as they ought to be considered and matured, before any such policy is embarked upon, because there are a great many considerations that must be taken into account.

Dealing with the question of immediate action, which at that time the circumstances warranted, Mr. Borden was equally emphatic. He said:

It may be fairly asked what we would do if we were in power today with regard to a great question of this kind. It seems to me that our plain course and duty would be this: The Government of this country are able to understand and to know, if they take the proper action for that purpose, whether the conditions which face the Empire at this time in respect to naval defence are grave. If we were in power we would endeavor to find that out, to get a plain, unvarnished answer to that question, and if the answer to that question, based upon the report of the Government of the Mother Country and of the naval experts of the Admiralty were such—and I think it would be such—as to demand instant and effective action by this country, then I would appeal to Parliament for immediate and effective aid, and if Parliament did not give immediate and effective aid I would appeal to the people of this country.

Now that Mr. Borden is in power he is pursuing the same course which his earlier statements indicate. Supported by a mandate from the people he is in conference with the British Government to ascertain the most effective means for the permanent co-operation of the Dominion. The offer of immediate assistance, should circumstances warrant, has awakened a responsive chord in the Mother Country, and there can be no question that

such a course would be loyally endorsed by the Canadian people.

Mr. Churchill's announcement that the standard of sixty per cent. will be maintained, involves an increase in the number of ships to be constructed over his estimate of last March. At the time Mr. Churchill announced the Admiralty's programme the details of the New German Naval Act were not known. Before the end of next year, owing to the extraordinary measures now being adopted, Germany will have three fully manned battle-squadrons complete with the fleet flagship, and two nucleus crew squadrons will later be created. When the full German organization has been completed there would be numerical equality in home waters in British and German battle-ships in commission.

The Admiralty's decision to increase the number of ships to be built within the next five years from seventeen to twenty-one is therefore justified by the new situation which has developed. When it is realized that eight years hence the German fleet will probably comprise twice as many Dreadnoughts as were seen at the recent British naval review at Spithead, the gravity of the situation is apparent. The Admiralty, as Mr. Churchill points out, having regard for the character of the vessels, are satisfied that the arrangements proposed are adequate. It is clear, however, that an offer from Canada to give immediate assistance would be welcomed by the British Government when so large an additional expenditure upon the fleet, both for ships and for men, is inevitable.

## WOODROW WILSON'S CHANCE.

The New York World sees no possibility that the election of a President will be thrown into the House of Representatives. It points out that it will require 266 electoral votes to choose a President, and 173 must be conceded to Governor Wilson at the outset. These 173 votes are represented by the States of Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

That makes it necessary for Governor Wilson to win 88 out of the remaining 353 electoral votes. Twenty-nine of them can be found in New Jersey and Indiana, which are sure to go Democratic. Fifty-two more can be found in New York and Connecticut, which are reasonably certain to go Democratic. Nebraska, with 8 votes, would give Governor Wilson the necessary majority.

But Democratic prospects are much brighter than this. Mr. Bryan carried Colorado and Nevada in 1908. Governor Wilson is likely to carry them this year, with the addition of North Dakota. These three States have 14 electoral votes. Wilson's chances in Ohio are better than Taft's or Roosevelt's, and Ohio has 24 votes. Senator Gardner predicts that Wilson will carry Maine, with 6 votes, and nobody familiar with political conditions in that State can regard this as an idle boast. In addition, Democratic prospects in Massachusetts are as good as any other prospects, and they are anything but discouraging in Pennsylvania. Massachusetts has 15 electoral votes and Pennsylvania has 35.

Any reasonable calculation based on the existence of a Republican party would give Wilson more than 200 electoral votes, but with the Republican party shot to pieces it is a question whether the winning Taft-Roosevelt forces will have anything of value from the wreck.

## ITALY KEEPS CHEERFUL.

The Italian Government is not altogether pleased with the optimism of the Italian press concerning the progress of the war. One of the best known of the war correspondents, Signor Cipolla, has been outlining in his paper, the Stampa, a plan for forcing the Danubian line by attacking Constantinople by means of airships now being built in Milan and elsewhere. A telegram by a correspondent of the Berliner Tageblatt, commenting on this fantastic plan, has been confiscated by the Roman censor on the ground that "it reproduces the opinions of Arnaldo Cipolla as to the manner in which Italy can most rapidly finish the war with Turkey."

In its own way, however, the Government continues to furnish the papers with comments on the war. Thus there appears in the Popolo Romano an inspired article on Turkish and Italian finances, which presents the latter in a very rosy light. While Turkey is said to be on the verge of bankruptcy, the economic conditions of Italy are described as being wonderfully sound.

The Italian budget at the close of June is said to show a surplus of 60,000,000 lire, and the balance of trade an increase, however slight, in exports as against an insignificant decrease in imports. In any case, the article states, an appeal to Italian capital would show that the country is sound not only as to its military organization, but that "the national spirit and the general administrative capacity are rising to the occasion." This is at least good Governmental whistling to keep up courage.

## A TEST OF THE REFERENDUM.

Waterbury, Connecticut, has been trying referendum. The question was whether the people wanted their proposed new city hall located on Grand street—a situation which some citizens believed was grand, while others did not. Waterbury has about eight thousand voters—more rather than less, and as there was a great show of public interest, the idea was that a decisive opinion could be secured by the referendum.

Actually only 3,480 voters—or less than half—chose to express an opinion. Of these, 1,750 were in the affirmative and 1,730 were in the negative. If silence gives consent, then the decision may be considered imperative. Waterbury, however, is not quite so sure of that and somehow has reached the conclusion that the vote counts for nothing. According to all the rules, the vote should determine the location of the City Hall. Apparently not in Waterbury. What it has determined is the uncertainty of the referendum.

## Current Comment

(Hamilton Herald.)

Flies are the product of filth. Abolish the filth and you abolish the flies. Allow filth to accumulate, and the flies will accumulate over so much matter that they can be swayed out of existence. And the best of cleanliness and proper sanitation is that when they are resorted to for the purpose of getting rid of the fly nuisance, they get rid of other nuisances and dangers quite as serious as the fly, if not more so.

(Montreal Gazette.)

There is a slump in candidates for the Northwest Mounted Police, and the recruiting will have to be done in the Old Country. Already the percentage of men from the British Isles on the force is 85, the other 15 per cent. being Canadian. It looks as though in time there will be no natives at all on the rolls of the police, whose reputation extends beyond the boundaries of the country it serves.

(Detroit Free Press.)

A women's meeting in Boston was adjourned because it was too hot to talk, that being about the limit in temperature.

(Toronto World.)

There is an alarming shortage of berry pickers. Could the City Council not take a holiday?

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## Most Anything

When Women Vote.  
"Will you vote for me for Parliament?"  
"Let me see you show that new hat of yours all over Ottawa. I guess not."

Lady at Postoffice (on receiving stamp for her letter)—Must I stick it on myself?  
Young Man—Better stick it on the letter, ma'am.

**NOT AFFECTION-ATE.**

"Water, this steak isn't very tender."  
"What d'yer expect? Want it to jump up and kiss you?"

## WEDDINGS.

Tufts-Urquhart.

At noon yesterday Clifford C. Tufts and Miss Edith M. Urquhart, of this city, were united in marriage by the Rev. P. H. Porter. After the ceremony the happy couple left by train for St. Martin, N. B., where they will spend the summer, and where the groom is employed with the Bay Shore Lumber Co.

## EQUITABLE LIFE HAS BIG BUSINESS BOOM

Society's New Writings for First Six Months of 1912 Amount to \$76,000,000.

**INCREASE NOT FROM GROUP PLAN.**

Plans for Retrenchment Include Reduction of Limit and Temporary Discontinuance of Group Plan.

That the officials of the Equitable Life Assurance Society have no desire to secure for themselves a berth in jail for a violation of the law limiting the amount of new business which a life insurance company may write during a calendar year, is apparent from telegrams sent out this week, the purport of which is to reduce the volume of business submitted to the society and to confine the writings as much as possible to the regular agency staff; this in hope that the volume during 1912 will not exceed its allotment under the New York law.

Exceeds its Allotment.

This action was deemed necessary owing to the remarkable results for the first six months of 1912, the aggregate new business for that period being \$76,000,000. Even assuming that the writings for the remainder of the year would only equal this amount it would mean a total for the twelve months of nearly \$160,000,000, but as a matter of fact the latter half of a year with most companies generally produces the greater portion of the year's business.

One of the first conclusions which would naturally come to the mind of the uninformed would be that the inauguration of the Group Plan, under which it is possible to write a large volume of business through a single transaction, has been responsible for the marked increase, but such is not the case as the total business secured under this plan for the first six months was only \$7,000,000.

Individual Limit Reduced.

How best to keep not only the volume of business for the remaining period of 1912 within the allotment under the New York law, but also as regards the future, is a matter that has given the management much concern since July first. One of the methods decided upon has been that of reducing the amount which will be considered on a single life on the life or endowment plan to \$300,000 instead of \$500,000 as heretofore, and limiting the amount which will be issued on a single life under the term plan to \$100,000 instead of \$250,000 as heretofore. The latter restriction has been notified to this effect.

Protecting Agency Force.

It has also been decided to discontinue all negotiations looking to the effecting of large group insurance transactions. This does not necessarily indicate that the society is adverse to the plan but it is found necessary to retrench somewhat in the channels of production in order that the agency force, which devotes its entire time to the affairs of the society may not be unduly restricted or hampered in its work.

100 Per Cent. Efficiency System

The significance of this momentous achievement of the Equitable would be difficult to overestimate. The one fact that stands out boldly before every thing else, of course, is that the field organization of the Society has rounded up a great producing force that is evidently working under a one hundred per cent. efficiency system.

That is the aim and ambition of every life insurance company, to so train and solidify its organization that production will steadily climb toward maximum capacity and never has the Equitable Life been nearer the goal than now. The results for the past six months demonstrate that esprit de corps in the Equitable agency organization that would defy any limitation in amount of business. To what amount of paid for business they might reach were they permitted to extend themselves, it would be difficult to gauge, judging from the magnificent results for the first half of the year.

Gauge of Public Confidence.

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A. H. Chipman, General Agent, Royal Bank Building, St. John.

Roy Linton Badly Hurt.

Roy Linton, an employee in the I. C. H. round house was badly injured in the yard yesterday. He was riding on one of the locomotives about seven o'clock in the morning on the way to the round house when he struck a switch and he was thrown to the ground. His injuries were very severe and it is feared that he has been injured internally.

He was taken to the hospital and is said to be in a serious condition. It is said his escape from being run over by the locomotive was a narrow one.

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