

The Herald

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10, 1917
SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR.
TO THE UNITED STATES \$1.50
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY
AT 81 QUEEN STREET
CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.
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Judge Davidson Reports

Sir Charles Davidson's reports on the sale of small arms ammunition to the British admiralty and the purchase of two submarines by the British Columbia government, have been completed. They are both voluminous, giving lengthy citations of the evidence and terminating with specific conclusions. In the case of the submarine purchases, the findings are:

It is cause for congratulation to all Canadians that this much-discussed and criticized enterprise was throughout of blameless character. The acquisition of these submarines probably saved, so it is believed by many, including high naval authorities, the cities of Victoria and Vancouver, or one or other of them from attack, and enormous tribute. What Sir Richard McBride did in these days of great anxiety and distress, and what he accomplished, deserve the commendation of his fellow countrymen, for his motives were those of patriotism and his conduct that of an honorable man.

In regard to the sale by the militia department to the admiralty, thru the medium of Sir Trevor Dawson and J. Wesley Allison, of some 3,000,000 rounds of small arms ammunition at \$20 per thousand, the commissioner finds that the price of \$20 was not an undervaluation as was alleged; that while there is evidence that \$25 was to be the ultimate price, the account is still open; that there is no evidence of Allison benefiting from the transaction, other than by commissions and that General Sir Sam Hughes, on the evidence or anything deducible from the evidence, stands free of anything that would affect his personal honour.

Sir Charles Davidson in his sittings as commissioner, examined 769 witnesses and took nearly 6,000 pages of evidence. He says: A sentiment of considerable proportions, and which might not unfittingly be described as popular clamor, would have, is that our public services are intensely tainted with grievous malfeasance. It is cause of great pride to me as Canadian, and as commissioner, to be able to assert that the results of my labors lead me, as regard these cases of my commission, to a strongly contrary belief. Further on Sir Charles observes: Of isolated cases of positive wrongdoing there is proof. As well are there examples of official neglect. With these I shall deal in no uncertain fashion. But my cumulative impression, as the work of the commission progresses, and the final convictions which result from essential and analytical perusal of the thousands of pages of evidence of record, lead me to applaud the faithful work and day by day overwork of the military officers; the zealous performance of their duties by public officials and more important than all the honesty of their performance.

How Sir Wilfrid Seeks Recruits

On various occasions Conservative newspapers have felt called upon to complain that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, despite the failure of recruiting in Quebec, has shown complete disregard for his famous promise to "stamp Quebec" if ever the Empire were in peril. However, after reading the widely

advised recruiting speech which the Liberal leader delivered in Quebec East on December 8, the ordinary man will conclude that his failure to stamp Quebec is not in itself a great calamity for our participation in the war. An exchange has culled, at random, from the newspaper report of Sir Wilfrid's address, some of his principal statements, which are hereby reproduced so that the public may have an opportunity of studying his peculiar methods of securing recruits:

He talked of the 40 years he had represented Quebec East, of his first election in 1877, of the growth of his riding, of his fifteen years of premiership and defeat in 1911 and the reason thereof.

His friends, in St. Sauveur, Sir Wilfrid said, knew that at the last election he was not defeated in the Province of Quebec on the question of reciprocity. Our adversaries cried "No Marine."

You know that Sir Lomer Gouin has given the best government this province has ever had, and all know that there is no other province has a government so well run as his government.

"There are some pages in her (England's) history that I would like to tear out. I would like to tear out the pages, which tell of the part played in 1870.

Sir Wilfrid pictured the nervousness that existed on the Pacific coast at the outbreak of the war. "Our only defence on the Pacific at that time," he said, "was the Rainbow. You have heard of the Rainbow. You all remember the pleasantries that were made about this ship at the time of the last general election."

"We have no conscription here, and will have none."

"I have no unlimited confidence in the present government. As I promised to tell you my thought I will say that I have no confidence in the government at all."

The night before Sir Wilfrid delivered himself of the foregoing, Sir Robert Borden stood in the same city and issued a patriotic appeal on behalf of National Service. Not a word not a suggestion, of politics passed his lips. His plea was addressed to all Canadians who have set their hearts upon winning the war. He was followed by Sir Wilfrid with a speech of rank partisanship crudely disguised as an appeal for recruits.

Perhaps the only comment that is disagreeable incident calls for is this; that in view of the Liberal contention that a return to office of Sir Wilfrid Laurier would promote a more vigorous prosecution of the war, the country would do well to place those Quebec speeches of the two leaders side by side and then determine which more truly interpreted the national mind.

The Sailing Ships Come Back

The war has done many interesting things, one of which is to bring back the sailing ship for ocean service. This is of particular interest to St. John and other Maritime province ports where at one time wooden shipbuilding was a great and prosperous industry. But not only in the Maritime Provinces but all over the world has the return of the sailing ship attracted attention. For some time poets have lamented the passing of sailing ships as it entailed the loss of much of the romance of the sea. The more efficient and swifter steamship was coming into general use, but now the United States government reports that on Dec. 1st there were a 116 vessels of more than 600 tons in building in

various yards in the country, and fully half of them were intended for ocean service.

An exchange commenting on the situation says:

"What most of us know of sea and ocean travel from literature is associated with the bark and the brigantine. The sailors of Cooper, Marryatt and Stevenson performed their deeds of valor on the sea in the intervals, between hauling on the ropes below and aloft. The advent of the steamship did not serve to enrich the literature of the sea which, for its best expressions, demands the bulging sails, the open life, the close companionship with wind and wave which gave the breeziness and freshness to those tales the older novelists told. There is a certain stiffness about the more recent sea stories, with their scenes laid amid surroundings familiar to every landsman, that is foreign to the idea of the open waters. Even Kipling's McAndrew is a landsman, reeking of oil and steam, compared with the rare old salts who drank and fought on the good ship 'Hispaniola.' 'The world will welcome back to life and, subsequently, to literature the picturesque and romantic sailing ship. 'Sea Fever,' as we best understand it, is that of which John Masfield writes: 'I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky, And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by, And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sails shaking, And a grey mist on the sea's face and a grey dawn breaking. I must go down to the seas again to the vagrant gypsy life, To the waltzing matron who is half-wild with the rhythm of the sea, and the white wings whetting knives: And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover, And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over.'"

Sir Thomas White, minister of Finance, addressing the Board of Trade in Toronto on the 3rd, said that, without going into figures, he could say that increased production and decreased consumption had resulted in completely reversing the balance of trade, so that Canada's surplus of exports over imports is more than sufficient to pay the interest on her foreign indebtedness, which has increased substantially since the outbreak of the war. The war is increasing daily in scale and intensity, he said, it may last two years; no one knows. It was the duty of every patriotic Canadian to save as much as possible for investment in the various national loans.

Ottawa advises state that the close of the calendar year found the revenue of Canada well in advance of last year's receipts. The Customs revenue for Dec. amounted to \$11,884,000, as compared with \$9,432,000 for the corresponding month last year, an increase of \$2,451,000. In the nine months of the fiscal year the Customs revenue reached a total of \$106,613,000, an increase of \$34,891,000.

Progress of the War

London Jan'y 3.—The period of comparative calm which has existed on all the battle fronts for some time, except in Roumania, continues. In no theatre, aside from Roumania, has an important engagement taken place, the activity everywhere being carried out by means of the artillery and by small patrol parties. In Roumania, the Teutonic Allies have gained another considerable success in the capture in Northern Dobruja of the towns of Matchin and Jijila, on the eastern bank of the Danube, opposite the important town of Braila, and forcing the Russians to a point just south of the Danube where the river winds and separates Dobruja from Bessarabia.

London Jan'y 4.—Except for a narrow strip of land projecting into the Danube marshes toward the Moldavian town of Galatz, all

of Dobruja has been cleared by the Teutonic Allies of Russian and Roumanian troops. After the fall of Matchin and Jijila the defenders began a retreat across the Danube toward Braila, and according to Berlin a force of Russian rear guards on the peninsula projecting toward Galatz comprises the only Entente troops now in Roumania between the Danube river and the Black Sea.

London Jan'y 6.—The Roumanian province of the Dobruja now is in the hands of the Central Powers, whose armies continue to advance through Great Wallachia into Moldavia. Braila, an important commercial city in Great Wallachia and on the west bank of the Danube, below Galatz, has been captured by the German and Bulgarian troops. Several villages on the outskirts of Braila also, have been occupied, and Field Marshal Von Mackensen's troops have taken 1,400 prisoners in their latest success. Virtually all of the River Danube, from its source to its mouth, is now in the hands of the Teuton forces who control all of the eastern bank. Galatz, twelve miles north of Braila, is the only important Roumanian town on the Danube yet in Roumanian hands.

London, Jan. 7.—From British Headquarters in France—Under cover of a heavy bombardment the British penetrated the enemy's third line trenches southeast of Antias. Since Christmas we have taken over 240 prisoners.

Paris Jan. 7.—German attacks against French lines on the right bank of the Meuse in the Verdun sector and near Vaux Les Palehieux, in the Verges Mountains were repulsed last night.

Paris, Jan. 7.—On the Somme front French artillery effectively shelled a German organization at Bois Labise and Omicourt. Enemy surprise attacks in the region of Maison De Champagne were repulsed and many prisoners taken.

London, Jan. 7.—British naval planes wrecked a railway bridge over the Maritz River at Knull Brugas, south of Andrianople.

Berlin, Jan. 7.—On the western front there were violent artillery engagements on the Ypres salient. North of the Ancre and on the Somme British troops in a night attack entered our most advanced trenches. Our raiding detachments in front of Verdun brought back some French prisoners.

Don't Hamper, Help.

Those Canadians whose conception of the duty of the hour finds expression in criticism or condemnation of the Government which is trying to the limit of its ability to grapple with the problems incidental to Canada's participation in the war, are sadly out of joint with the times and with the spirit that should animate the men of this country. This should be a period of mutual help and co-operation. The men who are in positions of authority, respectively of politics, are faced by a multitude of tasks and problems under which the great majority of their critics would falter and fail. The wonder is not that mistakes have been made in the handling of the many war problems, but that the errors have been so few and, in comparison to the work done, of such minor importance.

This is not a time for light or careless criticism, or for condemnation impelled solely by political motives. What Canada requires from every man within her boundaries is work and service, service that will make us worthy of the men who have forsaken their civil vocations and have donned the khaki to fight the battles of the Empire, or of the noble women who have striven with a zeal of worthy purpose to care for the soldier and lighten his lot.

Canada has already done much but it is necessary to do much more. The supplying of men to fill the sadly depleted ranks of boys on the firing lines does not mark the full limit of our responsibility. The call of the

hour is for service and co-operation. Nothing less will be acceptable, nothing less will discharge the responsibility of every Canadian. The motto of every man in Canada today should be "Don't hamper, help."

National Service.

TO THE MEN OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

For the first time in our history an appeal is being made to the manhood of this Province to place their human energy at the disposal of the state for war purposes. A grave situation must be faced seriously. Hitherto during the course of this frightful conflict we have been content to let other men do most of the fighting, and to let other parts of the Empire pay most of the bills. The call from the front is insistent for men, and more men, and now that call comes to us stronger than ever before to give our man power and other available resources to "National Service."

We all know that the British Empire and its Allies are quite equal to the task before them, but what we do not appear to realize is the urgent need of mobilizing our men and material in order to strike such a blow as will effectively proclaim our strength to the whole world—the only way of securing a permanent peace.

The National Service Board of Canada has been charged with the duty of making a complete enrolment of the male population between the age of sixteen and sixty-five. For this purpose the present week has been specially named as "National Service Week," during which cards will be placed in your hands on which you are required to give such information as will enable the country's position in relation to this great struggle to be accurately judged. You are asked to give the information voluntarily, to fill out the answers to ALL questions on the card correctly, and to return it promptly. This is the duty of every man NOW. In performing this duty you do not take upon yourself any further obligation. There is no more law to compel any man to serve his country after filling in this card than there was before. It is simply a stock taking such as all good business men practice at this season of the year. But bear in mind that the nation which has always given one hundred per cent protection to our lives and property, free of all cost to us, should be entitled to have both men power and material resources placed at her service in the hour of need.

National service does not necessarily mean active service overseas, though that is the highest form it can take at this time. Food and ammunition for the men at the front are just as essential as the men themselves. Consequently a man may "do his bit," just as effectively at home as he could by going to the front. The whole national service idea is that men and women shall volunteer to serve the state in whatever capacity their services may be valuable in this emergency.

The appeal is now urgently made to every man regarding the National Service enrolment as outlined above. Let Prince Edward Island's response be such as will place this Province in the lead with regard to it. Don't allow any consideration whatever to prevent you from having your card duly completed and returned this week, and don't fall to offer for service of some sort when making the return. Thus will your immediate duty to the nation be most acceptably performed.

If by any chance your card should not reach you, see or write your nearest postmaster who will supply you.

J. A. McDONALD, Director National Service for P. E. Island. Jan'y 10, 1916, 11

The loss of the British schooner Lena F. Oxner, 40 miles off Shelburne, N. S., on December 29, became known in Boston on the S. H. when the members of her crew were landed by the fishing schooner Catherine, which rescued them from their sinking vessel. The Oxner was bound from New York to Halifax. The men were without food or water for three days, and suffered severely from hunger and exposure.



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