

THE HERALD

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Unreasonable Opposition.

The opposition offered to the naval aid bill of the Borden Government, both in Parliament and through the Liberal press, is most false and misleading. It is argued by the Liberal Opposition that the present naval policy of Premier Borden contradicts the attitude assumed by him in 1909 and 1910, when the naval question was before Parliament. They say that Mr. Borden and his party then opposed money contributions to the Imperial navy; advocated a Canadian navy and favored submitting the question to the people for approval before determining what the Canadian policy should be.

The argument of the Opposition on every one of these propositions is incorrect and most misleading. The naval bill before Parliament at the present time is exactly in line with the attitude assumed by Mr. Borden, when Leader of the Opposition. On the 27th of March, 1909, a resolution regarding naval matters was unanimously agreed upon by both sides of the House. But when Laurier brought in his naval service bill on January 12th, 1910, it did not comply with the terms of the resolution that both parties had unanimously agreed upon, and in consequence was strongly opposed by Mr. Borden. This goes to show that the Liberals, not the Conservatives, had gone back on the naval arrangements first agreed upon. The best proof of this is the amending resolution presented by Mr. Borden to the Laurier bill. On February 3rd, 1910, Mr. Borden, Leader of the Opposition, moved the following resolution:

"The proposals of the Government do not follow the suggestions and recommendations of the Admiralty and, in so far as they empower the Government to withhold the naval forces of Canada from those of the Empire in time of war, are ill advised and dangerous. That no such proposals can safely be accepted unless they thoroughly ensure unity of organization and of action without which there can be no effective co-operation in any common scheme of Empire defence. That the said proposals while necessitating heavy outlay for construction and maintenance will give no immediate or effective aid to the Empire and no adequate or satisfactory results to Canada. That no permanent policy should be entered upon involving large future expenditures of this character until it has been submitted to the people and has received their approval. That in the meantime the immediate duty of Canada and the impending necessities of the Empire can best be discharged and met by placing without delay at the disposal of the Imperial authorities as a free and loyal contribution from the people of Canada, such an amount as may be sufficient to purchase or construct two battleships or armored cruisers of the latest Dreadnought type, giving to the Admiralty full discretion to expend the said sum at such time and for such purposes of naval defence as in their judgment may best serve to increase the united strength of the Empire and thus assure its peace and security."

This resolution emphatically set forth the policy of Mr. Borden and his friends at that time, and the present naval aid bill is in exact accordance therewith, as well as with the declaration made by Premier Borden in November last. All through, Mr. Borden has been consistent. He declares that no permanent naval policy should be entered upon before it has been submitted to the people. But in the meantime he considers that Canada should assist the Empire in its emergency.

The statement so freely made and so frequently reiterated by the Opposition that the present measure simply means the giving of so much money to the Imperial Government is equally false and misleading. The naval aid bill before Parliament provides that the money to be voted shall be placed at the disposal of the Government in Council to be expended for the building and equipping of three of the most powerful ships that can be built, and that these ships shall be loaned to the Admiralty and may be recalled by Canada whenever it determines to establish a navy of her own, and shall be incorporated in our battle line of warships.

The most casual study of the naval policy of the Borden Government must convince the average man that it is a most sane and reasonable policy; a sound patriotic Canadian policy. So true is this, that the Opposition have not attempted to attack it on its merits; but have spent months of the time of Parliament in misrepresenting it. Surely the great majority of Canadians must condemn such unstatesmanlike conduct as that followed by the Opposition.

"The True Church," was the subject of Rev. Father McGuigan's Lenten Sermon in St. Dunstan's Cathedral on Sunday evening last. His text was from the 18th verse of the XVI chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew: "And I say to thee; Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The Rev. preacher developed his theme at considerable length, eloquently pointing out that our divine Lord crowned His teaching and preaching on earth by establishing a supreme tribunal for guarding and perpetuating the doctrine which He had promulgated. This tribunal, this court of final resort is the true Church; the Holy Catholic, Apostolic and Roman Church. The Rev. preacher cited numerous quotations from the new Testament to prove that our divine Lord established this Church and appointed St. Peter its Supreme head. Not only did our Lord establish the true Church, but He solemnly promised to remain with it forever to guard it from possibility of error. For nearly two thousand years this Church has continued to teach and promulgate the doctrine of Christ; she has suffered all manner of opposition and withstood the most violent persecutions; yet today she stands out in undiminished vigor and splendor and in all parts of the world continues to teach and preach the true Christian doctrine and to gather multitudes into her fold.

The Patriot gravely informs its readers that "Two years, and nearly six months have elapsed since the Government came into power," at Ottawa. It is only one year astray; but that is about as near as it ever comes to the truth when discussing matters political.

Joaquin Miller, known as the poet of the "Sierra," died on the 18th at his home in the Piedmont foothills, California. His daughter, Jennie, and his wife were with him. He had been in failing health for two years.

The political prophets who foretold the destruction of the Conservative political party by Nationalist influence will please observe the absolute nonentity that that wing has become in Parliament.—London Free Press.

The president and twenty-nine officials of a corporation have been found guilty of violations of the Sherman anti-trust law, but an appeal for a new trial has been made in their behalf. A trial in the United States is not the drama it is in most other countries. It is a mere act in a sort of vaudeville show.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Alberta last year shipped 37,000 cattle to British Columbia, for which it received two and a half million dollars. Under Reciprocity a great portion of that supply would have been sent up from the ranches at Washington and Oregon. What would Reciprocity offer Alberta in exchange for the loss of its most valuable home market?—Calgary Herald.

The completion of the pipeline from Jaffa to Jerusalem will make the Holy City the chief oil distributing centre of that region, and the caravans of camels laden with cans of petroleum will no longer figure in photographs. The line is established by the Vacuum Oil Company of Rochester, N. Y.—Springfield Republican.

Sir John A. Macdonald predicted in 1877, thirty-six years ago, that the National Policy would force the Americans to open the gates they had so abruptly closed in 1866. Perhaps it was fortunate after all, that Laurier and Cartwright perpetuated that policy in violation of their solemn pledges. Out of evil cometh good—betimes.—Regina Standard.

A delegation recently waited upon the Imperial Government and asked for the removal of the customs duties on tea, sugar, coffee and other foods. Ministers told the delegates that it could not be done, as the Government needed the revenue. It would appear that the delegates represented people foolish enough to take seriously the Liberal denunciation of food duties.—Vancouver News-Advertiser.

Glancing through those dreary pages of Hansard wherein the perfunctory remarks of honorable members of the Opposition on the navy question are represented, one is reminded of what Winston Churchill said about Lord Charley Beresford the other day: "The noble lord does not know what he is going to say when he rises, he does not know what he is saying when he is on his feet, and he does not know what he has said when he sits down."—Hamilton Herald.

Colonel McLean, of Queens and Sunbury, has taken in the House practically the same position as The Herald in regard to the naval defence question. He pleads for unanimity of action at this time, as the country's permanent policy is not in issue. He argues that there can be no question of tribute, or of a cash contribution, when we are to build the ships and lend them to the Admiralty. He is anxious that something be done, effectively and quickly, in earnest of our intentions to assist in the defence of the Empire, and he holds that the Canadian Dreadnoughts must simply be held in trust until recalled to form part of the Canadian navy.—Montreal Herald.

Federal Parliament.

Three separate subjects occupied the House on the 18th. First R. C. Miller former president of the Diamond Light and Power Co. was brought to the bar was ordered to tell how he spent \$41,000 which he says he laid out in graft. He defied the House and was committed to the custody of the House, to appear again tomorrow.

Secondly, A moving and pathetic scene took place when both sides united in paying honor to the memory of Capt. Scott and his fellow heroes. Mr. Borden intimating that a grant of money will be made by Canadians to the defendants of the brave men who died.

Thirdly, The Naval debate was resumed, this time on the second reading of the bill. The Miller case proved exceedingly interesting and showed that between 1907 and 1911 while the Laurier government was in power, Miller, as president of his company obtained a number of contracts which aggregated \$117,000. He could not account to his company for \$41,000, and said that he had paid it out to certain persons to get the business. The public accounts committee, observing this avowal of graft, in effect a statement that the government had paid \$117,000 when the company got only \$76,000 investigated, and Miller refused to say to whom he had given the money. The question was put to him again at the bar of the House, and he defied the authority of the House on the ground that to answer might incriminate him.

Miller was promptly committed to the custody of the Sergeant at Arms and is in custody tonight. Tomorrow he will be summoned again to appear, and if he still proves obdurate will be confined closely within the precincts of the House. If he persists in his refusal the House has power to send him to prison. The British House has repeatedly sent offenders to Newgate and the Tower.

LIBERALS SHOW SULLEN ANGER. The behavior of the Liberals was very curious. They did not dare to challenge a division, the defiance of the House being open and gross, but they showed sullen anger. In view of the fact that Miller has accused the Laurier government of grafting on a serious scale, and that an investigation which proved his investigations untrue would vindicate the honor of the Laurier government, this restless impotent anger wears a very curious aspect.

Further, as the Liberals are in opposition and must expect to use the public accounts committee, they naturally would desire that the committee be made strong. Yet they resented the precedent being established of a witness being forced to answer.

PLACED AT THE BAR. On the special order being called, the Deputy Sergeant at Arms brought Mr. Miller into the House and placed him at the bar.

Mr. Middlebro moved that the Speaker require Mr. Miller to answer the question to whom he had paid the sum \$41,000 to secure contracts aggregating \$117,000. The motion was carried.

Mr. Miller asked for the privilege of being represented by counsel.

Mr. Middlebro moved that this be granted and the motion carried. Accordingly Mr. Miller's counsel, George Kidd, appeared beside him. The Speaker then repeated the question and Mr. Kidd said that under advice of counsel his client refused to answer on the ground that it might incriminate him to answer and that it was an unwarranted interference with his private affairs.

Mr. Middlebro held that this defense did not lie inasmuch as Mr. Miller's answer would be privileged or would do him no harm. He accordingly moved that the witness be taken into custody by the Sergeant at Arms.

On Mr. Speaker putting the question cries of dissent rose from the Liberals. The yeas and nays were called and Mr. Speaker decided that yeas had it. An effort was made to divide the House but this failed only two Liberals, Messrs. Chisholm (Antigonish) and C. A. Wilson (Laval) rising.

Mr. Miller was then removed. Mr. Lemieux then moved the adjournment of the House in order to urge the government to do something substantial in recognition of the heroism shown by Capt. Scott and his associates. He paid a tribute to the indomitable courage shown by the explorer and his subordinates in the wastes of the Antarctic and, in addition, dwelt upon the scientific advan-

tages gained from the expedition.

"These heroes were ours," he said, in speaking of the solidarity of the British Empire. He quoted, Captain Scott's last words as found in his diary: "The words of Scott are the words of a great hero," he said. "Scott was a worthy successor of Cardigan of Balaklava and of Franklin." He went on to quote Scott's appeal for provision for their dependents.

"Mr. Asquith had said that this appeal would not fall upon deaf ears; subscriptions had been opened in England. We belong to the British Empire; we claim Scott as ours," he said, and he urged Canada can afford to vote a sum of money which would bear tribute to the memory of these heroes.

MR. BORDEN AGREES. Mr. Borden thanked Mr. Lemieux for speaking as he had in expressing what had been in the minds and hearts of the members of the government. All Canada had been profoundly moved by the record of courage and endurance. He had been especially stirred by the behavior of Captain Oates who had gone out alone into the cold and darkness of an Antarctic morning to die alone, in order that his friends might escape.

Such a story appealed with peculiar force to Canadians, whose pioneer ancestors had borne great hardships with heroism. The sympathy of every man and woman in Canada had gone out to the widow and orphans. The ears of the people of Canada would be found as sensitive as those of the British nation. They would not be the words of the British nation alone but of the whole Empire.

SIR WILFRID'S TRIBUTE. Sir Wilfrid Laurier thanked the prime minister for his immediate response to Mr. Lemieux's request. Next to the sense of horror was the sense of gratitude that the old mother-land still produced such men. In the long history of the British navy no greater heroism than Scott's had been shown. In the South African war reproaches had been levelled at the British soldier; Captain Oates had shown a heroism which had never been surpassed. "England is still England," he said, Sir Wilfrid Laurier went on to refer to Captain Scott's widow. The subject then dropped.

A CORRECTION. Mr. Crothers corrected a report of his speech at Montreal last week which represented him as saying that he had little sympathy with labor unions. This was the opposite of what he had said.

NAVAL AID BILL. The naval aid bill was then taken up, Mr. Borden moving the second reading. He did so without speaking, and Mr. Turfitt led off for the Liberals. At the conclusion of his speech he moved the following amendment:

"That the said bill be not now read a second time but that it be resolved that it is the constitutional duty of the government, under the terms of the British North American Act, immediately to introduce a measure for the readjustment of the representation of the provinces according to population as established by the census of 1911, and that this house do not proceed further with this bill until such readjustment has taken place and the people have been duly consulted."

The debate was continued by several speakers until midnight when it was adjourned.

The debate was resumed on Wednesday 19th and occupied the time of the House all day and evening up to midnight, or thereabouts and then adjourned.

On Thursday 20th, Miller was brought back to the bar of the House shortly after three o'clock and given a second opportunity to answer the question which he had refused to answer two days ago. He refused again withdrawing the plea that an answer would incriminate him, and stated that, it would prejudice existing litigation in Montreal. He was then ordered to retire and a lengthy, and at times stormy, debate ensued. It ended at eleven thirty tonight when the Middlebro motion to commit Miller to the county jail was declared carried on division.

Miller was then brought back to the bar and informed by the Speaker of the judgement of the House. He heard the verdict, quietly bowed to the Speaker, and returned with his guards.

MR. PUGSLEY CHAMPIONS MILLER. The motion to commit was stubbornly resisted by the opposition.

Hon. William Pugsley took the field at an early stage in favor of (Continued on third page.)

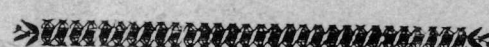
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Has Removed his Office from the City Hotel Building, Great George Street, to room 5 over Grant's Implement Warehouse, Corner of Queen and Sydney Streets. Collections attended to. Money to loan.

Ch'town, Feb. 22, 1911-6