

# The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1912.

## THE COMMITTEE OF IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

Conferences and discussions in which the Canadian Ministers have been engaged in London have been held with two separate and distinct bodies—the Imperial Government, comprised of members of the British Cabinet, and the Committee of Imperial Defence. The personnel of the Committee of Imperial Defence is, of course, well known, but there is probably less familiarity among Canadians as to the personnel and the duties of the Committee. In an advisory capacity the Committee of Imperial Defence takes first place in the councils of Imperial administration. It does not trench on the prerogatives of the British Cabinet, nor weaken the autonomy of the Admiralty and the War Office. It has no executive authority, but by the elasticity, so to speak, of its composition it is enabled to discharge many important Imperial functions. A brief reference, therefore, to the constitution of this Committee, in whose deliberations Mr. Borden and his colleagues have taken part, may be of interest.

The Committee was inaugurated nearly ten years ago by Mr. Balfour during his Premiership. Realizing that a body was required embracing in its membership leading men in all the public services relating to the defence of Great Britain and the Empire, to study the elements on which, in case of war, defeat or victory might depend, he brought the Committee of Imperial Defence into existence. It has proved as Mr. Asquith stated in a recent speech, "an invaluable addition to our constitutional machinery."

Technically, the Committee consists of the Prime Minister and "such persons whom he may from time to time summon to consult him with the aid of a small expert secretariat." In practice the Committee includes the heads of the two defensive departments, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Chief Secretaries of State, with the principal responsible experts of the Admiralty and the War Office. Any of the permanent officials of the State can be, and are, called, so that the fullest advantage may be gained from their peculiar knowledge and experience. By means of its standing sub-committees, which consist of experts, the Committee is continually collecting and sifting evidence and consulting with the shipping, railway and other commercial interests, in order that all the aspects of defence policy may come under review, and that every chance and hazard of war may be foreseen.

The procedure of the Committee is as follows: "It meets in full session six or seven times a year, for the purpose of considering the reports of its four permanent sub-committees, through which it carries on its work of investigation and collaboration. The four committees are thus constituted:

(1) Home Ports Defence Committee.—This has issued twenty-five reports relating to the defence of ports in the Mother Country and all vulnerable points around the shores.

(2) Overseas Committee.—This is concerned with the defence of all the Dominions, Colonies, and Crown Colonies, and has issued several reports for the consideration of the full Committee.

(3) Co-ordination Committee.—This body has compiled what is called a War Book, assigning to each Government Department the precise duties which it will perform immediately on the declaration of war, so that each may know exactly what is required of it.

(4) Air Committee.—This has charge of every thing connected with aerial navigation.

These four Committees appoint other sub-committees. In a recent review of the work accomplished, Mr. Asquith mentioned the scope of a few. It included: Local and internal transportation and the distribution of supplies in case of war; overseas transport; wireless telegraphy throughout the Empire; control of the Press in time of war; maintenance of overseas commerce in case of war. All these reports to the full Committee, and the total cost to the country has been little more than \$50,000 a year. Mr. Asquith appropriately termed the well-directed energy of these Committees as easily "the cheapest thing done by the Government."

The occasion of Mr. Borden's visit has not been the first time that the representatives of the Dominions and Overseas Forces, have been admitted to the Committee of Imperial Defence. Last year, at the time of the Imperial Conference, the Premiers of the self-governing Dominions joined in the consideration of Imperial problems. The recent meetings of the Committee, however, have a peculiar significance for Canada, in that Mr. Borden's proposals that the Dominion should help to bear the burdens of Imperial Defence, were privately but fully discussed.

As indicating the weight which attaches to the deliberation of the Imperial Defence Committee it will be of interest to record the standing of those present at the last meeting which Mr. Borden and his colleagues attended. The following is from a statement published in the London press on August 2nd:

"The Dominion Ministers yesterday morning attended a meeting of the Committee of Imperial Defence, and it is expected that this will be the last meeting at which it will be necessary for them to be present. The attendance included:

"The Prime Minister, The Right Hon. R. L. Borden (Prime Minister of Canada), The Hon. J. D. Hazen (Minister of Marine, Canada), The Hon. C. J. Doherty (Minister of Justice), The Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Lord Chancellor, The Lord President of the Council, The Secretary of State for Home Affairs, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, The Secretary of State for the Colonies, The Secretary of State for India, The President of the Board of Trade, The Secretary of State for War, The First Lord of the Admiralty, Viscount Kitchener, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Fisher of Kilverstone, The First Sea Lord of Admiralty, The Chief of the Naval War Staff, The Director of Military Operations, The Inspector-General of Overseas Forces, The Director of Military Training, The Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, The Permanent Secretary to the Board of Trade, The Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, The Solicitor to the Board of Customs and Excise, and Captain M. P. A. Hankley, C.B. (secretary)."

It will be observed, as already stated, that the Committee consists of the official and expert heads of every department of the British Government which has an interest in the problems of Imperial Defence. No detailed

information as to the deliberations of the Committee is given out for publication for obvious reasons. The results of the conferences at which the Canadian Ministers have been present is thus summarized in the London Telegraph:

"At the meetings of the Committee of Imperial Defence there has been an exhaustive discussion on general matters of defence and on the special defence of certain points of Canadian territory, and the fullest information has been imparted on the various questions on which the Canadian Ministers required information. Beyond general lines, however, no definite or concrete statement of Canadian intentions has so far been made. Indeed, it is extremely unlikely that any such statement of policy will be forthcoming until after Mr. Borden has conferred with his colleagues in Ottawa on the information he has acquired in London."

The advantage accruing to Mr. Borden and his colleagues from their attendance at these meetings of the Committee cannot well be overestimated. The Dominion Cabinet is about to frame a policy of Naval Defence in co-operation with the policy and programme of the British Government. Its representatives in London have been taken into the fullest confidence of the Home Authorities; they have been given an opportunity to discuss the situation with the expert heads of the greatest fighting machine in the world—the British Navy. When they return to Canada it is not only necessary but right that party politics should cease to be a factor in order to meet the exigencies of the occasion; and that the recommendations of the Cabinet—endorsed, as they will be, by the Imperial Government—should receive the unanimous and loyal support of the Canadian people.

## TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA.

In view of Mr. Foster's visit to Australia early next year to negotiate an agreement for closer trade relations between the Commonwealth and the Dominion, the statement of the trade between the two Sister Nations for 1911, which has just been issued by the Department of Trade and Commerce, is of some special interest. It is noteworthy that the total trade between the two countries for 1911 showed an increase over 1910 of no less than \$200,000. The balance of trade was overwhelmingly in favor of Canada.

Agricultural implements were the largest single item under the heading of exports. Canada shipped to Australia over \$1,000,000 worth of farm machinery and nearly \$3,000,000 worth of canned fish was sent, which was the value of over \$600,000 was shipped to Australia from Canada, an item also showing a decrease. There was a big increase in timber shipments, the total amount for 1911 being over \$600,000. There is a growing trade in motors to Australia, the total last year being some \$300,000. The other principal exports to Australia included liquors, boots and shoes, metal manufactures, apples and bicycles.

The bulk of the imports of Canada from Australia are comprised in the items of frozen mutton, lamb and other meats, with hides and skins. Butter declined by \$68,000, caused by higher prices ruling in Australia and through New Zealand enjoying a preference of one cent per pound. In vegetable products, Victorian oranges were responsible for over \$200,000.

The wheat crop of the Commonwealth showed a decrease for the season of 1911 of 22,556,345 bushels, as compared with the present season. The surplus available for export is estimated at 44,000,000 bushels, of which probably 21,000,000 bushels have already been shipped.

## Current Comment

(Troy Record.)

Semi-officially it is reported from Tokyo that among the acts of expediency which are to mark the accession of the new Emperor of Japan, will be pardons for the Korean Christians who have been under arrest for complicity in an assassination plot. It may be questioned which is to be congratulated, the prisoners or the Japanese nation. The former could not be convicted in any fair court of law on the evidence produced and therefore presumably are innocent. The latter has been shown to have tortured prisoners to secure confessions and is suspected of having planned the whole case with a view of stopping the growth of Christianity in the Korean peninsula. For Japan, pardons will be the easiest way to escape from a situation in no sense creditable.

(Detroit Free Press.)

With 30 per cent. of its aldermen under arrest for accepting bribes, and with suspicion thrown upon an indefinite number of others, Detroit enters the ranks of the world. A review of the names now spread on the roll of dishonor reveals one significant fact. They are all names of men who have paraded themselves as "friends of the people." They are names that have been most flagrantly associated with demagogic appeals to the poor against the wealthy, to the workmen against the employers, to the "masses" against the "classes."

(London Free Press.)

In Canada we have been careful to place ourselves upon record emphatically as approving of the protective principle. Whenever this issue has presented itself the result has been the decisive defeat of the Free Traders. Liberalism in Canada has placed itself in opposition probably for many years to come because of its advocacy of radical tariff changes, as contained in the Reciprocity movement, and not until the party succeeds in effacing the memory of its effort to foist a large measure of free trade upon Canada can it hope to be restored to public confidence.

(Lethbridge News.)

It's a fine thing to be a farmer—you always have something to worry about. A while ago there was not enough rain; later, there was too much; now when the crops are all fine and dandy there are not enough men to help with the harvest.

(Ottawa Free Press.)

A noble lord who has been motoring in Canada and the United States, reports that the roads are far inferior to those of England. When Canada is as old as England and has as large a population her roads will be just as good.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

Mr. Churchill will be welcomed to Canada, and this country will have no sympathy with the suggestion that instead of coming on a warship he should attempt the voyage in an aeroplane.

(Montreal Herald.)

Funny thing that about Parliament moving to Toronto because there are typhoid germs in Ottawa water. M. P.'s must think that the bugs might soak in when they bath.

(Vancouver Province.)

Hoboes touring the West have to arrange their itinerary with great care at present in order to avoid being pressed into service in the harvest field.

## ST. MARY'S BAND

### TO GIVE CONCERT

Excellent Programme will be Rendered on King Edward Stand this Evening Weather Permitting.

If the weather is at all favorable the St. Mary's band under the leadership of Bandmaster Charles H. Williams, will render a choice programme on the King Edward Stand this evening. The band has been rehearsing hard for the concert, and being one of the best musical organizations in the city, the citizens will have an opportunity of hearing some excellent music.

The following is the programme arranged:  
O. Canada.....J.C. Lavallee  
March-Vivian.....Edgwood  
Overture—Consecration.....Keler-Bela  
Andante from Haydn's Surprise Symphony, arranged by Meyrelles  
Bartolone Solo—The Favorite  
J. Haltman (by request, So-loist James Rafferty,  
Waltz—Die Schwenden Gelster  
Polonaise—On Mountain Heights  
Selection—Gems of Scotland.....Ed. Riesler  
Waltz—Dream on the Ocean, J. Gungl  
March—Pall Mall Famous Alexander  
God Save the King.

## INSURANCE PLAN

### FOR WESTERN UNION

Under Proposed System Employees Would Draw Benefit in Case of Illness—May Replace Pensions.

With reference to the insurance plan proposed by President Theodore Vail of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co., and of the Western Union, to take the place of the pension system now in force, George Robertson, local manager of the Western Union, said yesterday afternoon that

while he had not heard definitely whether the change would be made or not, he felt sure that it would be a good scheme. He said the pension system had taken some time to work out and it was probable the new system would not be perfected until early in 1913.

At present the pension system is being used by the Western Union to provide for their supernumerary employees and as the fund is being entirely supplied by the company itself it is proving very effective. The new system does away with this and substitutes an insurance plan that will

enable any employee who has been with the firm for two years to draw a sick benefit of half his weekly salary, while absent from work. The longer the employee is with the firm the greater will become the benefits in case of sickness and after five years of service the full weekly salary will be allowed. In addition to this it is expected that a death benefit will be established which in the case of an employee of five years will amount to half his yearly salary, while in the case of an employee of ten years the full salary will be allowed.

Mr. Robertson said the above will undoubtedly prove an excellent plan. At present, said Mr. Robertson, the Western Union by the excellent manner in which they are treating their employees are drawing to the firm the better class of operators. However, good operators are now rather scarce, this being caused by the fact that the Marconi Co. is employing more men since the Titanic disaster as each steamer is now required to carry two operators. A large number of the operators are also being employed by the western railways that are being built each year.

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