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The Dominion Premier's Important Service to the Empire.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's recent address in the House of Commons on the question of the war and imperialism, has attracted widespread attention, and provoked many expressions of admiration. We have no hesitation in classifying it as a great speech; we use that phrase advisedly, knowing that such a statement should not be made without good reasons. We will attempt, then, briefly to give our reasons. One journal speaks of it as "a triumph of oratory." No doubt it was that, but it is not with oratorical features that we are now concerned; these are important in relation to the immediate impression made by a speech, and we do not undervalue them, though they sometimes lend an artificial glamor to utterances which have little real significance. It is rather as a manifestation of high constitutional genius that we now consider this speech. Sir Wilfrid showed that he had carefully studied the Transvaal affair, and that while prepared to tolerate diversity of opinion he himself is no shallow opportunist, but acts in the matter from clear, strong conviction. In fact, the whole tenor of the speech shows how deeply the speaker had entered into the British parliamentary spirit. He did not desire to drag the members of his party. He admits that Mr. Bourassa has just as much right to believe that this is an unjust war as Mr. John Morley. But the Prime Minister, for his own part, is prepared to profess a deep, sincere conviction that Britain never undertook a more just war. It is an unjust war in one sense, but the injustice is on the side of the Transvaal Government, who wantonly provoked it.

The Prime Minister's remarks on President Kruger show the same same, well-balanced judgment. He is prepared to give a certain amount of admiration to Kruger as a patriot, but declares that "if you examine his conduct and policy in the light of history, you are compelled to draw the conclusion that in declaring war against England he showed himself to be the worst enemy to his own country. In refusing civil rights to the Outlanders he broke faith with them, and justified the British expatriation."

The Premier then goes on to say that the action of the country in the matter has been quite free, and was not taken at the dictation of Mr. Chamberlain or anyone else. The vast majority of the citizens desired that Canada should have some share in the defense of the empire, and as to the future the same thing will happen again if the country is of the same mind. Parliament in this matter represents the will of the people. The movement as a whole was free, and every individual member went to the honorable battlefield of his own free will.

One of the leading German Socialists once said that there were no people into whose blood the sense of fairness had so thoroughly entered as the British people. Sir Wilfrid shows that he has entered into this spirit when he claims that in our imperial relations, as elsewhere, we must have the spirit of "give and take." We note that in the French edition of the speech this phrase is not translated. It stands there in its simple English brevity and suggestiveness—"give and take." It is a phrase that represents the best spirit of British political life. It represents a thing, moreover, which the Boers never understood, or this war would never have taken place. But we are thankful that our Prime Minister understands it, and we hope that there will be more of it in Canada, so that different classes and races may dwell together in peace and with mutual respect.

The patriotic peroration, with its pathetic reference to the courage of "our boys," no doubt stirred the hearts of all who heard it, and when we note the combination of picturesque oratory with real insight and wisdom, we feel justified in saying that it was a great speech, of which all Canadians may be proud.

Pay, Pay, Pay!

Kipling, in his jingling song of the "Absent-Minded Beggar," reminded the jingoes of the music halls that they would need to pay as well as shout. In the earlier stages of this war the people did not get much chance of shouting, but they did at least hear pretty constantly the appeal to "pay, pay, pay." Very much money has been subscribed towards "patriotic funds," both at home and abroad, and this has been given cheerfully by many who would have been glad if the war could have been avoided. But these sums are but a drop in the bucket compared with the vast sums needed for bearing the actual expenses of the war. When we mention such a sum as \$300,000,000, we do not realize what it means. We know that it means a lavish outlay, which would bankrupt a small nation, and which disturbs for a while the financial arrangements of even the greatest nation. Fortunately, the credit of the nation is good, and at the moment when the financial strain comes there is every prospect of the war being brought to an early close, but for some time to come the taxpayers will feel the weight of this war.

If this is to be counted a little war, it will give us an idea of what a big war will be, thousands of lives sacrificed and millions to pay at short notice. This is one side of war. We have had sufficiently realistic pictures from the seat of war this time to know that with the improved weapons the scenes of

slaughter are more horrible than ever. We do not dwell upon these facts for the sake of frightening ourselves or others, but to keep before our minds the truth that while it is easy to shout, it may not always be so easy to pay. Those who bear these facts in mind and face a situation in a sober spirit are most likely to acquit themselves well, if they are forced to defend their country with the sword. There is, however, one advantage to this paying side: It has become so enormous that it makes kings and statesmen think seriously before they plunge into a big war. To arm large bodies of men with the most improved weapons, and to maintain them in a high state of efficiency, means such a terrible strain that some way will have to be sought of avoiding it.

Obligatory Arbitration.

Hon. Mr. Latchford is introducing a measure in the Ontario Legislature making arbitration obligatory in industrial conflicts involving corporations exercising public franchises. In New Zealand, as our readers are aware, almost all sorts and conditions of industrial disputes are settled by obligatory arbitration. The measure works well there. It is found to be fair to all parties; and has done away with strikes. It is not proposed, so far as we know, to introduce the same legislation in this Province, as between what may be called private employers and private employees. But it is a very different case when the employing company is the possessor of a public franchise, and that practically of the nature of a monopoly. Under such a measure as Mr. Latchford proposes, neither side could expect everything its own way, and the interests of the public as a whole would be safeguarded. Mr. Latchford has done well to introduce the bill. It has the hearty concurrence of Col. Lays, the energetic and assiduous representative of London in the Ontario Legislature.

The American View.

In the North American Review for March, S. M. McVane, a graduate of Harvard, who has been teaching since 1875, and is now professor of history in that university, reviews the answer of Dr. Leyds to the question, "Could the war have been avoided?" and he deals with it in a way that shows he is not prepared to accept the statement of the Transvaal agent. That gentleman's reply was "England had acted in such a manner as to render it absolutely unavoidable. The Boers did everything that it was humanly possible to do."

The American professor of history examines the official correspondence and shows that any one of three courses if taken by the Boers would have averted the war. None of these three courses would have involved much effort or sacrifices on the part of the Boers, so the professor mildly asks: "Is that so clearly a case of doing all that was humanly possible to avert the war?" This brief summary is worked up by an article contributed by Capt. A. T. Mahan, U. S. N., on the merits of the Transvaal dispute. He begins with the period whose beginning is marked by the convention of Pretoria in 1881. He shows that all the treaties involve the fact of the Transvaal being dependent on Britain as to its external relations, as well as owing its internal independence to British gift. He shows that even according to Mr. Bryce the Boers persisted in a fatal and dangerous course, and concludes thus:

"To India and to Australia [the Cape] is of the first consequence; to Great Britain and to Atlantic Canada hardly less. The Cape is one of the vital centers in the network of communications of the whole empire. To let it go, wrenched away through culpable remissness, would be to dissolve the empire, and justly, a government is not worthy to live that, having shown justice to all its subjects, British and Dutch alike, throughout South Africa, should supinely acquiesce in the conditions of the Transvaal, as depicted, or fail to take heed that the Dutch Afrikaner as a class has so little learned the lessons of political justice and true liberty that his sympathies are with the Boer oppressor rather than with the Uitlander oppressed. Under such conditions it would have been imperial suicide to have allowed the well-known though under-estimated military preparations of the Transvaal to pass unnoticed, defiant oppression to continue, and race disaffection to come to a head, until the favorable moment for revolt should be found in the day of imperial embarrassment. To every subject of the empire the Government owed it to settle at once the question, and to establish its own paramountcy on bases that cannot be shaken lightly."

The next important pronouncement is by General Alger. It is a justification of his own statement—"I hold that we should treat Great Britain in 1900 as squarely as she treated us in 1893." These things seem to bear out the statement that with certain qualifications the intelligent opinion of America is with Great Britain in the present struggle.

WON'T MARRY THE DUKE.

New York, March 21.—Mrs. Hetty Green, when seen at her home in Hoboken today, said there was no truth in the story published, to the effect that her daughter, Miss Sylvia Green, was to become the bride of the Duke de la Torre.

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH

Importance of the Bill Introduced by Mr. Casey.

Reforms in the Postoffice Department—\$42,000 Saved on Five Contracts.

[From Our Ottawa Correspondent.] Ottawa, March 19.—An important bill was introduced into the House of Commons last week by Mr. Casey, of West Egin, to provide for the establishment of a government system of telegraphs, either by the acquisition of existing lines, or by the construction of new ones. The bill proposes to make a uniform charge for private business, with a minimum of ten cents a message, and to provide a proper schedule of rates for press dispatches and so forth. The experience of the British and Australian governments was quoted to show with what success government ownership has been tried in those parts of the empire, and the introduction of the bill urged with much justification that there was every reason to expect similarly satisfactory results to the public by the adoption of the system here.

The formal introduction of a bill is seldom attended with much discussion, but so much interest is taken in this particular measure that several members spoke to it. Serious complaints came from the extreme east, particularly Prince Edward Island, and from the west, of the inefficiency and costliness of the present telegraphic service, and it was pointed out that in every case where these complaints occurred the service was practically in the hands of a monopoly, which would of course be at once broken in if the government assumed ownership.

THE COUNTRY SAVES MONEY.

An excellent opportunity of comparing the methods in vogue in the post-office department under the late government with the present system of business-like economy was given in a statement submitted by the postmaster-general one afternoon last week. Five mail services in the Northwest Territories were costing the department under Sir Adolphe Caron a total of \$11,865.40. When the present postmaster-general took office he was so satisfied that the country was being swindled that he cancelled the contracts, and called for fresh tenders, with the result that a better service is now being secured for \$3,506 per annum, or a total saving to the country on these five contracts alone of nearly \$4,000 in the five years for which the contracts are made.

This is but a sample of the drastic reforms which have been made effective in this department, and which, in the brief period that the present postmaster-general has been in charge, have enabled him to wipe out a deficit of nearly half a million dollars in the cost of mail-carriage, and greatly increase the number of post-offices, increase the number of miles covered by about a million and a half annually, reduce the domestic postage rate from 3 cents to 2 cents, reduce the imperial postage rate from 5 cents to 2 cents, greatly increase the facility of the money order department, simplify the dead letter office, and in a hundred other ways improve the postal service, until it is second only to the imperial service itself.

ALTOGETHER TOO INQUISITIVE.

An interesting feature of parliamentary routine is the questions to be put by members' columns on the order paper, and it is widely taken advantage of by the opposition, particularly in cases where an opportunity appears to present itself of embarrassing the government by excessive inquisitiveness. To make this form of attack effective, however, the questioner must be well posted, or he is liable to burn his fingers, and bring out information which he would rather have not called attention to. An instance of this occurred on Monday, when Mr. Milnor, the Conservative member for East Middlesex, innocently inquired, "By what authority is the pay of the permanent corps only 5 cents per day, when section 58 of the militia act states the pay of the militia private is 50 cents?" The minister of militia replied that it was under authority of the order-in-council passed by Sir John Macdonald's government in 1879 that a reduction was made from 50 to 45 cents, and that in 1883 the same government made a further reduction to 40 cents. This was a very embarrassing bit of history for the opposition, after their exceedingly ostentatious liberality last week in the discussion on the contingent vote, and the house was not a little amused at the very obvious chagrin of the honorable gentleman's friends on the opposition benches at the tactical error he had made in asking the question.

TROUBLE IN THE STOMACH

Which Doctors Failed to Remove Cured by Less Than Two Boxes of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills.

The experience of Mr. Blackwell is similar to that of many sufferers with chronic indigestion. Stomach medicines without real cure indigestion. The kidneys and liver must be set right and the bowels made regular and active.

For this purpose no remedy can compare with Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, because they act on kidneys and liver alike, make the bowels regular, and so remove the causes of chronic indigestion and stomach troubles.

Mr. Joseph Blackwell, Holmesville, Ont., says: "I derived most benefit from the use of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills than from any other medicine I ever took, and can highly recommend them for stomach troubles. I was in a terrible state and could hardly work at my trade. I tried most every kind of medicine and doctors, until I was tired of doctoring, and before I used one box of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills I could see that they were helping me, and after taking a box and a half, found that I was cured."

Every dealer in medicine sells Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, and nearly every family on this continent has used them. They are a standard medicine of known worth that never disappoints. One pill a dose, 25 cents a box, at all dealers, or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

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ANNIVERSARY SALE

The following specials for Thursday's selling, along with all odds and ends left over from this sale, will be put out on Thursday to clear, and they'll go at these prices:

For...
Thursday

Final Clear-up
of our
Anniversary
Sale.

Balance of all
Special
Bargains
Must Go.

Be One of the
Crowd.

Thursday Will
be a
Money-Maker
for You.
Come Early.

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FIVE LETTERS CAME

To Walter White's Parents After His Death.

Windsor, March 21.—A letter written by Walter White a few days before he was killed in the battle at Modder River, on Feb. 18, was received by his mother yesterday morning. It was written at Belmont, just before the Canadian troops began the advance that cost so many lives.

"Five letters have reached us since Walter's death," said Joseph White, the boy's father, "but there'll be no more. It has almost seemed like receiving letters from the dead, but we're glad they've come, for it shows that Walter thought of his home right up to his death."

The last letter reads: "I haven't time to write you more than a line. I received your letter, and was glad to hear you were well. We are moving this afternoon. I don't know where we are going, but I will not be able to write very often, so if you do not hear from me you need not worry. I may not be able to write for a month or more. I am well, and so are all the rest of our boys. Write often. Love to all friends, and more for yourself. Take good care of yourself for my sake. I must close now, as it is time to get on the train."

The letter had not left Africa before young White was killed.

Catarrhone Fools the Doctors. Mr. I. Reynolds, of 39 Queen street, Ottawa, writes: "I have been a constant sufferer from Catarrh, with dropping in the throat, etc. for some time. My doctor said an operation would be necessary, but the use of one bottle of Catarrhone has rid me of my trouble." Catarrhone is a new scientific treatment guaranteed to cure Catarrh, Asthma, and Bronchitis. Sold everywhere. Trial outfit sent to any address for 10 cents in stamps, by N. C. POLSON & CO., Kingston, Ont., proprietors.

When one girl admits another is pretty she always spoils it by saying she lacks intellect. THE D. & L. EMULSION OF COD Liver Oil may be taken with most beneficial results by those who are run down or suffering from after-effects of a grippé made by Davis & Lawrence Company, Limited.

Dress Goods at 35c yard—37 pieces Fancies, Plain Amazons, Whips, Cashmires, Fancy Plaids, were 50c, 60c, 75c, to clear out at, per yard..... 35c
Black Dress Goods at 85c—27 ends, dress lengths, some of our finest goods, were \$1.25 and \$1.50 per yard, to clear out, yard... 85c
Fancy Cashmere Hose, 25c pair—Children's and maids' sizes, 5 1-2, 6 1-2, 7, 7 1-2, 8, 8 1-2, regular 39c to 65c pair, to clear Thursday, per pair..... 25c
Ladies' Black Cashmere Hose, 25c—10 dozen more of those fine 2-1 Ribbed Cashmere Hose, sizes 8, 8 1-2, 9, 9 1-2, special, pair.... 25c
30 dozen Ladies' White Embroidered Handkerchiefs, assorted patterns, worth 15c, 18c, 20c, 25c each, to be sold at 2 for..... 25c
Laces at 10c yard—3, 4 and 7-inch lace, white and ecru, were 15c, 20c, 25c and 30c yard, Thursday to clear at, per yard..... 10c
Remnants of Embroideries—4 1/2-yard ends, 300 of them, extra fine muslin and cambric edges, worth 50 and 60c each, Thursday, per piece..... 30c
700 yards Black Cambric, 3 3/4 yard—Slightly damaged, having been used as a screen for our moving pictures, 5c Cambric, black only, to clear at, per yard..... 3 1/2c
Glass Toweling, 27-inch, for 8c a yard, red and blue check, woven selvedge, worth 12 1-2c a yard, Thursday..... 8c
One thousand six hundred yards Crum's Best English Prints, 32 inches wide, light, dark and medium patterns, navy blue, etc., 12 1/2c, for per yard..... 8c
Two hundred and sixty yards Simpson's Sateens, black grounds with white figure and plaids, 32 inches wide; regular 12 1/2c. Anniversary sale price, per yard..... 8c
One thousand six hundred yards Light prints and Percalés, light blues, grays, 32 and 36 inches wide; regular 10c and 12 1/2c. Anniversary sale price..... 5 1/2c
Plain Pink and Blue Flannelette; regular price 10c and 12c a yard. Anniversary sale price..... 7c
Art Denims and Muslins; regular price 10c and 12 1/2c a yard. Anniversary sale price..... 5c
Cretonnes and Sateens, 10c, 12 1/2c and up to 25c a yard. Anniversary sale price, per yard..... 8c
Ends of White Cotton, from 5 to 10 yards; regular price 10c and 12 1/2c a yard. Anniversary sale price..... 8c
One bale Extra Fine Gray Cotton..... 4 1/2c
Five only, Wrapperette Wrappers, fancy patterns, gray, blue and pink; \$1.50, for..... \$1.00
Seven only, Print Wrappers, navy blue and fancy prints, dark colors; regular \$1.75 and \$2.00. Anniversary sale price..... \$1.00

RUGS—VERY SPECIAL.

200 Rugs, two sizes, 30x63, and 36x72. This lot was purchased from an English manufacturer to clear at a rate very much below their regular value, and will be sold.
30x63, worth \$2.00, for..... \$1.25
36x72, worth \$3.00, for..... \$1.95

KID GLOVES FOR 39c.

5 1/2, 6, 6 1/2 only; were \$1.00, 75c, 59c; black and colors..... 39c
Men's White Dress Shirts, heavy cotton, 4-ply linen bosoms, all sizes, 14 to 17 1-2, regular 65c and 75c. Anniversary sale price..... 50c
Men's Cambric Shirts, detached cuffs, neat blue and white stripes and neat checks, Easter styles. Special value..... \$1.00
Men's All-Wool Underwear, medium weight, Scotch finish, ribbed skirt, just the kind for spring wear, regular price 75c. The lot of 70 odd garments to clear at, each..... 57c
Fine 4-Ply Linen Collars, 3 shapes, 3 for..... 25c
Men's Fine Ringwood Gloves, regular 25c and 35c, for, per pair..... 19c

SHOE DEPARTMENT.

Three special assorted lots, Women's and Misses' Button and Laced Boots, not all sizes of each line but assortment of sizes in the lot. Special lot No. 3—30 pairs Men's Buff, Whole Foxed Laced Boots and Dongola Laced Boots, sewed soles; regular price \$1.95 and \$2.00. Anniversary sale price..... \$1.19

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WHAT IT WILL DO.
1—Prevents all contagious diseases from approaching where it is used.
2—It will clean and polish paint work and not kill the gloss on the paint.
3—It will clean carpets without taking them up.
4—It will clean linoleums like new.
5—It will clean bicycle chains and rims.
6—It will clean and remove paint, oil and grease stains from wooden and metal clothing. Also cleans coat collars and hats.
7—It contains no alkali and is strongly recommended for washing the head, as it imparts a silky and natural gloss to the hair, and is especially useful for child dress.
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Novo is claimed to be the cheapest and best paint cleaner on market. Try it on finger marks on doors. Full directions on each block.
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