

Sir Wilfrid's Amendment

Ottawa, Dec. 12.—The Laurier amendment does not strike out of the Borden resolution the appropriation of \$35,000,000 "to strengthen the naval force of the Empire," but declares:

1. That the British Government has been forced to recall many vessels from distant waters for home defence.
2. That this requires Canada to adopt a permanent program in the way of contributing to imperial naval defence, which can best be subserved by vessels owned by Canada, and equipped, manned and maintained by Canada, and built to as great extent as possible in Canada.
3. To increase the mobility and efficiency of the imperial navy, Canada should proceed to construct, man and maintain two fleet units, one on the Atlantic and the other on the Pacific coast.
4. That the House regrets the failure of the Government to adopt any permanent naval policy, and disapproves of a cash contribution in the absence of any emergency, preferring the plan of a Canadian navy.

BORDEN'S PLAN A BURDEN ON THE MOTHER COUNTRY

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in Speech on Naval Policy, Points Out Un-Canadian and Un-British Aspect of the Government's Scheme—Slashing Speech by Mr. Graham

whole House joined in, and, with the galleries crowded to capacity, the scene was most impressive.

Two Fleet Units.

Sir Wilfrid's policy is embodied in his speech this afternoon and in the amendment offered by him, which is now before the House, can be summed up in a few words. He agrees with the Government that thirty-five million dollars shall be put at the disposal of the Government at once for the purpose of strengthening the naval forces of the Empire. He does not favor presenting Britain with three Dreadnoughts, to be a part of the royal navy stationed in the North Sea, but proposes in lieu thereof that Canada shall spend this \$35,000,000 upon two fleet units (embracing one Dreadnought each), one to be stationed on the Atlantic coast, and the other on the Pacific coast, and these are to be manned, officered, equipped and maintained by Canada.

Sir Wilfrid declares that no emergency exists, if there is an emergency, he says, "If England is in danger, do not send \$35,000,000, but twice, [Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Dec. 12.—In a speech that was repeatedly interrupted by enthusiastic cheering, Sir Wilfrid Laurier this afternoon announced his naval policy.

For an hour and a half the Old Chief spoke in his most forceful style, and the address, which was a most comprehensive one in regard to all the details of his plan for the Canadian fleet, was one of the greatest speeches of a brilliant career. When he proposed that the \$35,000,000 asked for by Premier Borden be used immediately for the creation of two fleet units, one for the Atlantic and the other for the Pacific, manned and maintained entirely by Canadians, and to be used for Canadian defence, yet at any time ready to co-operate with the squadrons of England, the applause was deafening.

When he closed his address one of the most remarkable scenes ever enacted in the House took place, when the Liberal members rose and sang the National Anthem. The thrice and four times that amount.

The ex-premier's speech was direct and epigrammatic. Here are a few shots across the bow of the Government:

Pointed Phrases.
"England never bends the knee—she is no beggar, no suppliant."
"The way to get vessels built in Canada is not for us to write Mr. Churchill about it, but build them ourselves."
"The Government's policy is a cross

between Tory jingoism and Nationalism."

"The Government says to Britain, we will do anything and everything for the Empire but fight. We will hire men to do that for us."

"Big nations are like big men—they are not jealous of one another." "The question is not whether the British must do the fighting. Oh! Tory jingoes, is this the extent of your sacrifice?"

"When England recalls a vessel from Canadian waters to the North Sea, let Canada replace that vessel and arm, equip and man it."

Premier Moves Adoption.
When the House opened the Prime Minister moved that the report of the committee of the whole House recommending the adoption of the resolution, declaring it to be expedient to appropriate \$35,000,000 for the construction of three capital battle ships under the direction of the governor-in-council, be placed at the disposal of his majesty for defence of the Empire, be adopted.

Mr. Borden, speaking to his motion read the correspondence between himself and Mr. Churchill, respecting the construction in Canada of the British admiralty, of destroyers, oil tank vessels, and auxiliary cruisers.

A Great Ovation.

When Mr. Borden took his seat Sir Wilfrid Laurier arose and a tremendous applause from his followers, which continued for some time. "In rising," he said, "to present the views of his majesty's loyal Opposition, I should say to the House that there came to me last summer as well as to the Prime Minister, representations from many eminent men, asking that the question of imperial defence be kept out of contentious politics. I am heartily in accord with this proposition, and I hope I may say, without offence, that if this question has been dragged into party politics, the blame must rest upon the Conservative party."

He then traced the history of the naval question in this country, beginning with the resolution introduced in the House of Commons by Hon. George E. Foster, upon which was finally founded the resolution of March 23, 1909. The Liberal Government, he said, had offered no serious opposition to Mr. Foster's resolution, but had suggested an amendment made necessary by changed conditions in Europe. They had then accepted an amendment proposed to this amendment by Mr. Borden, and the voice of the Canadian people as interpreted by the unanimous vote of Parliament had been in favor of a Canadian navy.

Hardly was the ink dry upon this resolution, he continued, but it was assailed by one wing of the Conservative party, which said no aid to Britain would be effected except by a cash contribution, and by another wing, which declared against a cash contribution and the Canadian navy alike. The present policy of the Government, he declared to be a cross between Tory jingoism and Nationalism.

England Never Bends Knee.

The people of this country had awaited with impatience and apprehension the message which would be delivered to them from the British Government, by the present Canadian Prime Minister. They had been told by people here that England was on her knees begging help from Canada. "But," said Sir Wilfrid, amid tremendous cheers, "England never bends the knee! She is never a beggar, and never a suppliant."

The memorandum from the British admiralty, he said, contained nothing new, it revealed nothing not known to this Parliament in March, 1909.

It disclosed that England was in danger, but that, owing to the increased armament among the nations of the world, she had for strategic reasons concentrated her naval forces in the home waters by withdrawing many vessels which heretofore patrolled the shores of Canada and other dominions of the King throughout the world.

"Very well," said Sir Wilfrid, "what is the duty of the overseas dominions? The duty is, when a vessel is recalled to the home waters, to replace that vessel with one of their own, equipped, manned and maintained at their own expense."

Purely Canadian Navy.

Sir Wilfrid, after quoting from former speeches of Premier Borden and Hon. George E. Foster, in opposition to the plan of a cash contribution, made an eloquent plea for vessels paid for by Canada. If possible built in Canada, maintained by Canada, with Canadians on board to fight for the Empire. The present Government was sending word to the heart of the Empire, "We will pay you money to fight for us, but we will not fight for you or ourselves; we will do anything for the Empire but fight."

Found No Emergency.

After saying that Canada should give to the Empire not only money but men, Sir Wilfrid complained that Mr. Borden had gone to England in search of an emergency and that the advice he had received there had been in reply to his question, "What shall we do in case of emergency?" In the correspondence between Mr. Borden and Mr. Churchill, stress was laid upon the fact that Canadians might officer the Dreadnoughts presented by Canada.

"Is this your sacrifice, oh Tory jingoes?" exclaimed Sir Wilfrid. "You would strut around in plumes and feathers and gold lace, but all the hard work must be done by the men of Britain."

The Borden policy, Sir Wilfrid declared, to be a mere makeshift, and effort to please the Nationalists. The problem of how Canada should contribute to imperial defence was a permanent problem and must be dealt with by a permanent plan. He believed his policy would conduce to the upbuilding of a great shipbuilding industry in Canada.

"Instead of writing to Mr. Churchill about giving some jobs to our ship yards, let us build the ships ourselves."

In closing Sir Wilfrid offered his amendment.
Hon. J. D. Hazen, minister of marine and naval affairs, regretted that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had made an apologetic speech, seeking rather to serve the Liberal party than the British Empire. Mr. Hazen declared that the Prime Minister faithfully carried out his anti-election pledges. He had been the epitome of sincerity and consistency.

Mr. Hazen then proceeded to quote Commander Roper, and Admiral Kingsmill in an attempt to show how inefficiently the Laurier Government had proceeded to carry out its program for a Canadian navy. Tenders for the construction of ten war vessels had been received by the late government, on May 1, 1911, and had not been acted upon when that government retired from office in the following October. The fact was that these ships would have been obsolete by the time they were completed.

Hard to Get Men.

Mr. Hazen then went on to point out how impossible it would be for Canada to build Dreadnoughts for many years to come, and reminded the House of the difficulty experienced in manning the ships we have.

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EDITORIAL

How a Good Suit Or Overcoat Can Be Made For \$15.

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Graham's Challenge

Ottawa, Dec. 12.—The spirit in which the Opposition enters upon the debate on the navy bill was indicated when late this afternoon, Hon. George P. Graham, amid loud Liberal cheers, addressed the following challenge to the Government: "I would like honorable gentlemen who form the Government to bring in a redistribution bill and let us put it through, and let us go to the country. If it is fair at all we will assist you in putting it through and we will go to the country. Let the people decide as to this naval bill."

"MILESTONES" PROVED A CHARMING PLAY

Witty, Satirical, Sentimental and Pathetic—An Excellent Company.

The London and New York success, "Milestones," opened an engagement at the Grand last night, and proved a sheer delight. It is the joint work of Arnold Bennett—a jeu d'esprit of moments snatched from his prolific labors in novel-writing—and of Edward Knoblauch, who probably arranged the music on scene. The idea of presenting three periods and three generations has been carried out with an exquisite verisimilitude. The figures move across a social background stretching from 1869 to the present, an era of tremendous change not only in such externals as dress, furniture, decorations and mechanical appliances, but what is more to the serious dramatist's purpose, in habits of

thought, particularly the thoughts of women.

In the first act, with its mid-Victorian milieu, we see the women in crinolines, with mincing steps which seem to express the conventional restraints of the sex fifty years ago. The advanced girl of the period shocks her elders by actually riding home alone to the day of emancipation when women shall also ride on the tops of omnibuses. In the second act, 1885, the crinoline has given place to the bustle, in its most aggressive form, and we hear fleeting references to the day of emancipation when women shall also ride on the tops of omnibuses. In the last act, the granddaughter in a hobble skirt is immersed in politics, and frankly critical of her parents.

The authors keep a stream of satire, wit, and humor playing upon the social and political conventions and stock ideas of the different periods, with very appealing touches of sentiment and pathos. They make no pretence of a message, but there is a fine intellectual flavor and stimulus in the play, all too rare in the modern drama. And how cleverly the flight of time is visualized, not only in the stage settings, but in the "make-up" of the players. The physical transformation of youth into old age by three mem-

bers of the company is in itself a work of art. It is an admirable cast; it would be invidious to praise one where all are praiseworthy. It is an English company at its best. If there was a tiny fault it was a too great rapidity of utterance in the first act. The voices are fresh and musical, and nearly every one is a lesson in enunciation.

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