

The St. John Standard

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LAURIER'S NAVAL RECORD.

For some time past Liberal speakers have been telling Canadians about the Australian Navy. In part they declare that Canada should do likewise; in part they insinuate that the Laurier Government followed the same policy as Australia. The idea that the Laurier Government did anything to be compared with the performances of Australia needs only a moment's examination to be dissipated into thin air.

In 1909, at the Defence Conference, the British Admiralty came to the Ministers of the several Dominions with a definite plan for the establishment of an Imperial Pacific Fleet. It was to consist of four battle-cruisers, a dozen cruisers, and a torpedo service. To the Canadian Ministers in particular they said in effect:—"Put all your force upon the Pacific Ocean. We are quite able to look after your Atlantic shores, but we are uneasy about your British Columbia coast. Go in with Australia, New Zealand and with us in starting this Imperial Pacific Fleet." Their plan was that Canada and Australia should each provide one fleet unit, that Great Britain and New Zealand should join in providing a third fleet unit, New Zealand paying for the battle-cruiser; and that Great Britain should provide a fourth fleet unit. Each fleet unit was to comprise one battle-cruiser, three light cruisers, six destroyers, and three submarines. United they would furnish a formidable squadron of four Dreadnoughts, supported by twelve cruisers suitable for scouting and commerce protection, and a torpedo fleet of 24 destroyers and twelve submarines.

Australia and New Zealand accepted this proposition. Canada refused it. Instead, Canada proposed to provide no Dreadnoughts at all, though the Dreadnought was the essential part of the fleet unit, and only four light cruisers, with some destroyers. Two cruisers only were to be on the Pacific Coast. Thus at the outset the Laurier Government failed to keep pace with the Australians. The proposal of the Australians and New Zealanders accepted the Admiralty's proposal they ordered the ships. The Australians ordered their destroyers in the autumn of 1909; their battle-cruiser, the "Australia," was begun in June, 1910; the light cruiser, "Sydney," was begun in February 1911, and the light cruiser, "Melbourne," in April, 1911. The Australian Naval Act was passed in November, 1910, and in the ensuing month two destroyers were actually in their harbors. That is, the Australians did not wait to pass the act before ordering the ships, and part of their fleet unit was sailing from England, where it was built, before the act was assented to.

The Laurier Government did nothing in the way of preparation, beyond engaging some naval officers, buying two training ships, etc., until the act was passed, early in 1910; they then took a full year to screw up their minds to the point of calling for tenders for the four cruisers and six destroyers. The hammers were ringing on two Australian light cruisers, and the battle cruiser "Australia" was nearly ready to launch, when the tenders for the very first ships lay on Mr. Brodeur's desk. Though the tenders were available by May 1, 1911, and the Government did not decide to dissolve until the end of July, the tenders were not let. Mr. Pugsley has recently explained that this was because they were afraid of Quebec.

One excuse put forward for not awarding the tenders is that Sir Wilfrid Laurier failed to attend the Imperial Conference of 1911. It need only be observed that the Australians did not allow such considerations to hold their hands. They ordered ships in 1909, 1910 and 1911 whether their Ministers were in or out of Australia. Neither should it be forgotten that the Laurier Government recruited 349 young men for the Navy. In a slightly longer time the Australians with a smaller population recruited 1,400 men.

So much for the impudent suggestion that the Laurier Government while in power did anything approaching what the Australians did. They refused to go into the big programme that the Australians undertook and with their poor, little, half-hearted programme they dilly-dallied. The Australians ordered ships in October, 1909, and the Laurier Government went out of office two years later without one ship ordered.

A BOY SCOUTS' EXHIBITION.

An exhibition of Boy Scouts' industries in which all the products were made by boys and the whole administration was in the hands of boys, was held early this month at Birmingham in England. Nothing so elaborate had been attempted before in the history of the movement and it was noteworthy as showing the extent to which this great organization has been encouraged and developed in the Old Country. Prince and Princess Alexander of York attended the exhibition

which was opened by the Princess. It is almost unnecessary to add that Lieut. General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the chief scout, and his wife, were among those present.

In the arena all kinds of gymnastic displays, exhibitions of strength, boxing and jumping were given which demonstrated the advantages of physical culture. A section of the exhibition was devoted to aerial interests in which models of aeroplanes were made and model pontoons and bridges were constructed. Among the industries in which Boy Scouts were engaged and gave demonstrations of their excellent training were basket work, blacksmith's work, cooking, bee-keeping, carpentering, cycling, dairy-work, electrical and other engineering, farmer's work, poultry-keeping, and plumbing. During the exhibition about 6,000 boys were under canvas and some 30,000 attended and took part in the review. A daily newspaper was published by the Scouts in which there was a comprehensive record of the doings of all the Boy Scouts in Birmingham.

The impression has been created, by those who have not given the subject much thought, that the Boy Scout movement has a military tendency. This view is entirely erroneous and it is instructive to quote some remarks by the Chief Scout, made at the exhibition on this question. "The whole aim of the movement," he said, "is to make good citizens, and one misconception which this exhibition is particularly designed to remove is that it is a military organization. It has nothing more to do with soldiering than with any other form of activity in life. Its aims are divided under four heads—first, character; second, handicraft; third, public service; and fourth, physical, development and health."

As to character, the boys are taught backwoodsmanhood, because of the resourcefulness, the self-reliance, the sense of duty, which the backwoodsman is bound to develop, and which are harder to find in town populations. With regard to handicraft, the training appeals as much to the slum boy as to the better-class boy. In reference to public service and the duty of helping others, Sir R. Baden-Powell mentioned that, although every case of lifesaving reported to headquarters is carefully inquired into, some 700 boys have already been decorated for gallantry, and the average number of recommendations for lifesaving, or assisting in saving life, is about one a day. "The Scout system of educating," he added, "is not to 'thumb' knowledge into a boy, but to help him to get it for himself."

The practical side of the movement is shown by the demand for Boy Scouts among employers in the Old Country. There are now over 25,000 in London, and no difficulty is experienced in finding them good situations. The association also has a farm in the country at which the boys are doing exceedingly well. The Sea Scouts, it is predicted, are going to be a valuable asset in getting men for the navy and mercantile marine. There are now something like 180,000 Boy Scouts in Great Britain. The Scout movement owes its origin to the genius of Sir Robert Baden-Powell who, for the benefit of the boyhood of England, founded this voluntary organization to discipline their lives and elevate their character. Scarcely had he set the movement on foot before it was taken up with enthusiasm all over the United Kingdom; while with very brief delay other countries followed England's lead. In Canada there are about 30,000 Boy Scouts and there is now scarcely a country in the world which has not a more or less flourishing organization. The Scout's code of duty teaches him to help his neighbor, not to hate his enemy, actual or potential. The movement is therefore in the best sense international as well as national. It appeals to the finer instincts of boy nature all the world over.

CURRENT COMMENT

A Bank's Activities.

(Montreal Gazette.)
 That a bank should confine its activities to banking seems a very simple thing. The lessons of the failure in Pittsburgh, of the First-Second National, swayed by men in control of its affairs, a institution appears to become interested in irrigation, traction and waterworks enterprises all over the country. Then it failed. The Farmers' Bank of Canada, which may be said to have turned itself into a mining company, also failed. It is a good law which in such a case, limits the chartered banker's powers.

War on the Militants.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)
 When the British newspapers combine to suppress news of militant suffragette outrages, the militants may as well conclude they have reached the "public nuisance" stage. The more thoroughly the "Cat and Mouse" law does its work the better pleased the general public is.

DIARY OF EVENTS

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

MANITOBA, A PROVINCE.

Manitoba was duly constituted a province of Canada by royal and parliamentary enactment forty-three years ago today. Adams G. Archibald, afterward knighted, was named as the first lieutenant-governor. The North-west had been acquired from the Hudson's Bay Company by the Dominion in 1869. Following this arrangement and before the actual transfer of the country, there was a period of trouble. Red headed rebellion of his brothers, and early in 1870 set up a provisional government. The diplomacy of Donald A. Smith, the future Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, and the march of Col. Volsiele, afterward Viscount Volsiele, to Fort Garry, put an end to the uprising. In the following September the first ministry of the Province was organized, with the Hon. M. A. Girard as premier.

TRINITY UNIVERSITY.

Trinity University, Toronto, was founded under the provisions of a royal charter dated sixty-one years ago today. July 15, 1852. Bishop Strachan was the leader in the movement for the establishment in Canada of a great Anglican institution of learning. From its inception Trinity received many generous benefactions.

A RAILROAD WRECK.

St. Thomas, Ont., was the scene of a terrible railroad wreck twenty-six years ago today. A freight train ran into an excursion train and the latter, which was crowded with passengers, caught fire. Nineteen people were killed, most of them being burned to death, while forty others were seriously injured.

FIRST THINGS

FIRST AUCTION SALE.

The first auction sale in England was held 213 years ago today by Elisha Yale, who had been governor of the East India Company. He was selling the East India wares he had brought home. The sale attracted wide attention and was so successful that others immediately adopted the plan. Before the close of the eighteenth century England began to place a value on auction sales, and at times these duties have ranged as high as five per cent. In 1846 the tax was repealed, but a charge was imposed on the license to be taken out by all auctioneers.

The abuses at auctions, caused by combinations of brokers to bid up the offerings, led to the adoption of stringent regulations. In the United States the sale of a certain class have always been guilty of many impositions on the public. Fake "auction sales" of alleged bankrupt stocks of merchandise, "fire sales," and similar schemes, have long been used to impose on the credulous. At many such sales the auctioneer has conspired with the dealer to sell the goods at a price that would net the dealer a handsome profit. The promoters of heavy fines and prison sentences has discouraged this class of auctioneers in most sections.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

FRANKLIN KNIGHT LANE.

Washington statesmen "view with alarm" the rising flood of emigration to Canada, but they should be considering that the movement is only reciprocity. Once the tide flowed from British America to the States, and bore with it James J. Hill, E. V. Rieu, and many other notable names, the tide of emigration to Canada was reversed. The new secretary of the interior and honorary chief of the Black-foot Indians.

Mr. Lane is usually called a Canadian, as he was born forty-nine years ago today in Prince Edward Island, nine years before that Province entered the Dominion. Going to California as an infant, he graduated from Oakland high school at thirteen, and then resided through the University of California in two seasons, occupying his leisure by reporting for the San Francisco papers. Next he became a lawyer, but in 1881 he returned to the "lawless paper name" as post owner of the Tacoma News.

While in the Washington city he drove out political boss or two and married Miss Anne Wintermute, the charming woman who is now one of the leaders in the "cabinet" at Washington. Returning to California, Mr. Lane narrowly escaped being elected governor, although a Democrat. As a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission he won an international reputation. Secretary Lane loves the sea, does on Kipling's "The Great Gray" most of his leisure by reporting for the San Francisco papers. Next he became a lawyer, but in 1881 he returned to the "lawless paper name" as post owner of the Tacoma News.

LORD NORTHCLIFFE.

Starting his newspaper career with Little capital and no "pull," Lord Northcliffe will celebrate his forty-eighth birthday today as chief proprietor of the London Mail, which has the largest circulation of any paper in the world; the London Times, the greatest circulation in the English-speaking world; the Evening News, with a circulation of half a million; the weekly Dispatch, Answers, Comic Cuts, and other newspapers and periodicals.

Although the press of Lord Northcliffe turn out eight million papers a week, and the Amalgamated Press, which is the corporate title of his publishing company, paid profits last year of \$1,816,415. Alfred Harmsworth, now Lord Northcliffe, first Baron of Isle of Thanet, was born in Dublin, the son of a comparatively poor barrister, and in many respects his rise to wealth and power has been the most remarkable in the history of journalism.

DR. BENJAMIN WHEELER.

Dr. Benjamin Ide Wheeler, president of the University of California, and author of "The Greek Noun-Accent" and other brilliant works for light summer reading, begins his 60th year today. He was born at Randolph, Mass., and educated at Brown and Old Heidelberg. "Prexy" Wheeler recently visited Germany and paid a friendly call on Emperor William.

OPHELIA'S SLATE



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IN LIGHTER VEIN

The Eternal Question.

A teacher was trying to explain the dangers of overwork to one of the smaller pupils.
 "Now, Tommy," she pursued, "if your father were busy all day and said he would have to go back to the office at night, what would he be doing?"
 "That's what ma wants to know."

A Keen Stab.

This is the fashion in which the Toronto Mail and Empire jabs holes in the atmosphere of municipal headquarters.
 "An insane man was found wandering about the city hall. It is remarkable that anything peculiar was noted about his behavior,"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Hera.

"Every woman should have a hobby," asserted the Blue-stocking.
 "I agree with you," said the Bride.
 "What's your hobby?" questioned the Blue-stocking.
 "My hobby," answered the Bride, "Judge."

She Objected.

Customer (complaining to ice company manager)—Your teamster does not give full measure.
 Madam—If he doesn't madam, he is at fault.
 Customer—Well, he mustn't lay the fault at my door.

Family Pride.

Prisoner (to jailer)—Put me in cell 38.
 "What for?"
 "It's the one father used to have."

Good Sense.

Willie—Pa, when has a man horse sense?
 Pa—When he can say "Nay" my son.

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EXPERT ADVICES FOR NEWBORN

Harold G. Sears, Crop Expert
 Tells of Advantages of Fodder and Hay Plants

Harold G. Sears, son of Postmaster Edward Sears, is visiting here after an absence of twelve years. Mr. Sears has been actively engaged during that time as crop expert and buyer of agricultural seeds for large seed interests throughout the producing sections of the West, and in that capacity has made a thorough study of agriculture, products and especially the culture of alfalfa—very truly called the "Queen of Crops" throughout the West.

In an interview with Mr. Sears yesterday he impressed the fact that alfalfa—the premier forage—is the most valuable, as well as the most profitable forage and hay plant that the world has yet produced, for it will furnish more green fodder, more pasture, and more dry hay matter per acre than any other forage, and pound for pound it will equal or exceed, when bran in producing pork, milk, mutton and beef, and many dairymen of repute have proved conclusively that alfalfa is fully 10 per cent more nutritious than any other hay, and increases the flow of milk accordingly.

Alfalfa on Every Farm.

"In order to have a prosperous city the adjacent country districts must be productive and prosperous, and if the farmers of New Brunswick can be interested in the culture of alfalfa through the spreading of the tiding of 'alfalfa on every farm,' which is now the slogan of the International Harvester Co. of America, through their extension department, Chicago, Ill., who are spending thousands of dollars this year through the middle and Eastern States, sending out literature and alfalfa experts into the various large and small farming communities—free of charge—undoubtedly the farmer who to prepare his seed, the proper time for seeding, irrigation, and many other important factors which are necessary for the farmer to know. For in the successful culture of this 'Wonder crop of the World,' the key to the solution of cheap and valuable feed, and more valuable and prosperous farms will be found.

"The Breeder's Gazette, of Chicago, Ill., which is recognized as an authority, classes any land that will produce alfalfa as worth not less than one hundred dollars per acre, and under such an average crop and a reasonable location should qualify such states as conservative.

Will Grow in East.

"In many cases in the East where alfalfa has never been tried the opinion prevails that alfalfa is purely a Western crop—this is being disproven daily in many of the Eastern sections of the United States and Canada, where alfalfa is proving a marked success under proper study and supervision. Then again a few of those who have tried it may tell you, 'Yes, I have tried it, but it failed out, however, when this happens you may depend upon it there is a reason for doing so, for alfalfa is a hardy success, for it grows on all soils, from almost pure sand in Florida to the stiff clays in the North—it does best in deep, fertile, well drained soil, rich in lime, and reasonably free from weeds—the lack of any of these essentials may cause failure. Alfalfa will succeed in wet soil or on rocky land and does not do well on acid soil. Acidity may be determined by spreading a moist ball of earth taken from the field and picking in it a slip of litmus paper (which any druggist can supply) if the paper turns red or pink the soil must have lime.

An Essential Start.

"Inoculation is most important in the starting of alfalfa on our soils, due to the absence in the soil of a sufficient number of virulent, nodule-forming bacteria, peculiar to the alfalfa plant, and it is therefore essential to inoculate a field which has never grown alfalfa or sweet clover, with the soil secured from old alfalfa or sweet clover, or if such is not available, inoculant may be applied in the form of a special culture, such as nitrogen, bacteria, etc.

"It has been proven beyond doubt in localities where at least average crop can be secured, when all three methods are employed in the culture of alfalfa, namely, manure, lime and bacterial inoculation of the field and seed, that the results are bound to follow, providing a that clean, hardy acclimated strain of seed are sown (mild climates will germinate in a more severe climate but do not stand the necessity after tests). Climaticization of seed is a pronounced necessity.

Take Care in Buying.

"It is a deplorable fact that many commercial alfalfa seed in a great many instances is nothing less than a lottery, and as above mentioned seed that will produce and endure in more southerly climates, is valuable to winterkill in our climate, account of the thawing and freezing during our winters, whereas, strictly northern grown seed, raised in western Canada, Montana, Northern Texas, and other northwestern sections is not liable to winterkill to a notable extent. At the present time serious fraud is being perpetrated in the sale of alfalfa seed, namely the substituting of clover seed, especially Turkish alfalfa, and posing of same to the farmer as an alfalfa seed, also some of the grown seed labelled as northern grown may be purchased at very low prices in comparison with the clover seed, or even the Turkish alfalfa, even at lower cost the farmer can have alfalfa to invest in same when he has northern grown American seed be had.

What N. B. Requires.

"It is difficult for the farmer