

NEW SCHEME TO DEFEND ENGLAND FROM AIR RAIDS

DEBATE ON AIR DEFENCE ELICITS PLAIN SPEAKING IN THE BRITISH COMMONS

Army Navy and munitions Departments to Co-ordinate Under New Plan—Baron Astor Takes Seat in Lords for First Time.

London, Feb. 16, 9:55 p. m.—Today's debate in parliament on the air defence of Great Britain was chiefly remarkable for the frank admissions made by the cabinet's spokesman that the present conditions are far from satisfactory. Andrew Bonar Law, secretary for the colonies, A. J. Balfour, first lord of the admiralty, and H. J. Tennant, under secretary for war, all spoke in this vein. They declared, however, that the government was doing all that was humanly possible.

Mr. Balfour scored the sensation of the day when he declared that one of England's great mistakes in the days prior to the war was her failure to develop a dirigible airship fleet, along lines similar to that of Germany. "With regard to Zeppelins," he said, "looking back on events I am sorry that we did not develop that type of vessel, not so much for aggression and defence, as for maritime and other scouting. Such airships might have played for us an important part. Certainly Germany has had an advantage in possessing them."

"We are doing what we can to remedy this state of things, but I do not pretend that, when we began the race ten years behind the enemy, there is any reasonable probability of catching up. However, something must be done and what can be being done."

The matter of Zeppelins came up early in the day in the opening speech by William Joynson-Hicks, Unionist, who recalled Winston Spencer Churchill's statement of March, 1914, that England was to have a fleet of airships and that one of the Zeppelin type had been laid down.

"Mr. Churchill," continued the speaker, "said we had built or were building fifteen airships. Where are they?"

Towards the close of his speech Mr. Joynson-Hicks referred to this same subject, remarking:

"I have left out the possibility of our defending ourselves from an air raid by means of airships of the Zeppelin type, because we have not got any. Regarding this lack, a heavy responsibility rests on the gentleman who was the first Lord of the Admiralty some time ago."

The debate on air defence was introduced by Mr. Joynson-Hicks, in moving an amendment to the address on the speech from the throne, regarding "that no proposal has been made

therein for placing the air service of the country on a firmer and stronger basis."

Bonar Law.

At the close of the day's debate Mr. Joynson-Hicks consented to withdraw his amendment on the understanding that further opportunity would be offered for discussion later in the session of the air problems.

The government supporters tonight expressed the hope that the ministerial statements today would do much to clarify the atmosphere and reassure the country. Mr. Bonar Law's summing up of the cabinet's position on air defence, in a short speech, was as follows:

"I make no pretense that the government is satisfied with this branch of the service, but I assure the house that we are trying to effect remedies for all defenses."

"Mr. Tennant, in behalf of the war office, after outlining a new scheme for the co-ordination of the army, navy and munitions departments in the work of air defence, closed with the statement:

"While we have made strides in providing proper equipment and defenses for the arsenals, and vulnerable points of the country, the safety of every part of the United Kingdom against attack by long-range aircraft can never be complete."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Richard McKenna, announced today that the German national debt at the end of the financial year, March 31, will be 2,200,000,000 pounds.

Germany's gross war expenditure to the end of 1915, was more than 1,500,000,000 pounds.

Credits voted by France between the outbreak of the war to the end of December, 1915, were about 1,240,000,000 pounds and for the first quarter of 1916, 300,000,000 pounds.

Immediately on the resumption of the sitting of the House of Commons Premier Asquith moved and obtained the consent of the house that the whole session, until March 31, shall be devoted to government business. This aroused protests from various quarters, whereupon the Premier declared that private members seemed singularly lacking in a sense of perspective.

Such members, added the Premier, did not seem to realize the conditions under which the country was living. It did not warrant a mass of legislative proposals from private members which were never intended to be discussed, he declared.

Air Defences Subject to Lively Debate

The question of air defenses then was taken up. William Joynson-Hicks moved an amendment expressing regret that the King's speech did not mention proposals for placing the aerial service on a firmer and stronger basis. He declared he was not making

an attack on the government, but rather a patriotic effort to improve the country's defenses, in regard to which public feeling was very strong, especially in those places visited by Zeppelins. He desired to know who was responsible and would assume responsibility in the future.

Mr. Joynson-Hicks criticized the present defenses, which he characterized as antiquated, and said it ought to be as easy as pressing a button to send up squadrons of battle-planes to meet a Zeppelin attack. He asserted that the Allied armaments at the front were outclassed by their adversaries.

Ronald McNeill seconded the motion, making similar arguments. Sir Percy Scott has been taken over by the army from the navy, and a joint naval and army committee will be formed to co-ordinate the air defenses."

A. J. Balfour said that one of the great difficulties in connection with the enlargement of the air service had been lack of material.

"We are still behind in certain directions," he said, "because the government is oblivious to the necessities of the situation, but because the material cannot be obtained."

Col. Arthur Lynch, Nationalist member for West (Ireland), interrupted Mr. Balfour, asking what particular material he referred to, but the first Lord ignored the question, continuing:

"Every possible resource in Europe and America is being tapped for the provision of air material. One of the difficulties is that nothing can be standardized, because the air service is constantly developing and changing."

"We are deficient in air defense guns," continued Mr. Balfour, "but that is due to lack of material. The whole question here has to be considered in relation to the demands of the army and the navy for competing material."

Baron Astor Takes His Seat in Lords

Baron Astor of Hever West (William Waldorf Astor) took his seat for the first time in the House of Lords. The house sat for only twenty minutes. There was no debate.

C. P. R. PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON THE BUDGET

Sir Thos. White's Measure Seems Most Feasible, Lord Shaughnessy Believes.

Montreal, Feb. 16.—The following statement was today issued by Lord Shaughnessy, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway:

"The war has, as we all know, added, and will for some time continue to add, important financial burdens to those of the country already carrying, and the Minister of Finance is compelled to resort to drastic measures of taxation for the purpose of meeting the situation."

"The measure now before the House would appear to be about the most feasible means of providing the additional revenue required, but it strikes me that it has some features requiring elucidation, and that Sir Thomas White would be inclined to amend before the bill becomes law. It may be pointed out that, if the amount paid up on its capital stock is to be determined by the share capital actually issued as fully paid, some of our Canadian companies, although making large profits just now, will have oceans of water between their net revenue and the proposed tax, while others, like the Canadian Pacific, for instance, have outstanding capital stock less in amount than the money actually paid for it, without reference to appropriations from revenue for capital expenditures."

"Every good citizen and reasonable man will loyally stand back of the plan of action that they find may be considered best in the circumstances, but in return, the people of the country will demand, probably more emphatically than ever before, that expenditures in connection with making large profits just now, or extravagance, and that the Minister of Finance, with his colleagues, shall see that the country's money is neither pilfered nor squandered."

GOSPEL OF EASE FACTOR IN HIGH COST OF LIVING

Commission Which Has Been Studying Question for Two Years Submits Report.

INCREASE OF FIFTY PER CENT. IN 15 YEARS.

Standard of Living in Canada Has Been Raised—Vocational Training in Schools Suggested.

Ottawa, Feb. 16, via leased wire.—The long awaited report of the Royal Commission appointed on December 29, 1913, to investigate the increase in the cost of living in Canada and its causes, was tabled in the Commons this afternoon by the Prime Minister. There are two big volumes packed with interesting information, deductions and recommendations. The commissioners, Messrs. John McDougall, commissioner of customs; C. G. James, agricultural commissioner; R. H. Coats, chief statistician of the department of labor, and J. U. Vincent, deputy minister of inland revenue, after spending two years on the task, have produced a report of over 2,000 pages. In the main, they find that the increase in the cost of living during the past fifteen years, which has been practically fifty per cent, is due to the increase in the gold supply, which reduces the purchasing power of money, to manifold forms of extravagance and waste, public and private, individual and social; to restricted supply following upon disproportionate rural development; to uneconomic methods of distribution and marketing of products, to higher standards of living by both rich and poor; to increased vocational training; to the cost of the gospel of ease which has permeated the national life of the Anglo-Saxon race; to uneconomical household expenses; and to the effect of mergers and trusts and combinations.

Some Remedies

Among the remedies suggested are the encouragement of land settlement, greater attention to mixed farming, increased production, with the just standardization and improvement of the quality of farm products, together with co-operation and improvement in the quality of farm products, together with co-operation in their distribution; the extension of the parcel posts and the making of good roads, cheaper and more accessible working capital, especially to farmers of the west, and a comprehensive system of vocational training to promote greater efficiency of service in all lines.

The commissioners point out the custom tariff is a tax paid in part by the consumer, and in part by the exporter. It cannot be abolished without having other taxes to take their place. Whether any feasible method is found to replace the customs tariff system is an unsettled question.

It must be borne in mind that political economy is not an exact science. It is unproductive of protection, with its corollaries, does give the protective competitor a great immediate economic advantage over unprotected ones. Whether this pays or does not pay, and whether it is a question which we leave to the controversialists.

Cost of High Living

At the outset it is pointed out that the best blood cleansing remedy on the market to-day is Burdock's Blood Bitters, and the splendid and successful method of expelling all the useless and corrupt matter from the blood is to use this old and well tried remedy that has been on the market for the past forty years.

Mr. W. E. Cockrell, Golden, B.C., writes: "I was troubled with boils all over my body, and my blood was very bad. I tried all kinds of medicines and the doctor got no relief. I had to quit work, as I could not stoop to do anything. My boss told me to use Burdock's Blood Bitters, and before I had finished it the boils were all gone. It is the best blood cleanser I have ever taken. I have told several others who were suffering with boils, and they all say it is great. I feel like sixteen since I got rid of the boils."

Burdock's Blood Bitters is manufactured only by T. McMillan Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

during the past decade or so the people have been demanding more and better things. The standard of living has been raised in Canada, as well as throughout the whole civilized world, and that perhaps the whole problem should be considered rather in the light of the "cost of high living." As an instance of this it is pointed out that during 1914, automobiles to the value of not less than \$12,000,000 were imported or manufactured, less than ten per cent. of these being for industrial use.

Under the heading of "Industrial efficiency" the commissioners point out that inefficient service, mainly through the lack of a proper system of vocational training, has been one of the notable causes which have brought about the recent advance in the price of commodities. They urge that teaching in public schools should

be supplemented by special courses in vocational training in all lines of industry. Another cause for the increase of the cost of living is described as a dearth of farm labor at reasonable price.

"In this dominion," says the report, "we are proportionately working fewer hours than ever before, and we have a greater number of the inefficient and the idle in our midst."

Adulteration of Foods

Under the head of "production" emphasis is laid on the fact that in many lines of agricultural products, Canada has not, by any means, kept pace with the increase in population. For instance, during the three-year period ending with March 31, 1914, imports of mutton and lamb totalled \$1,409,334, while exports totalled \$115,362; im-

ports of eggs totalled \$7,031,983, while exports totalled \$299,833; imports of butter totalled \$4,925,461, while exports totalled \$2,706,379.

Another contributing cause for price advances is stated to be adulteration of foods. Manufacturers and retailers have sought to obtain a larger return for a smaller value. Instead of advancing the price of products in many cases the quality has been lowered and the quantity of the goods offered for sale at the same price has been reduced.

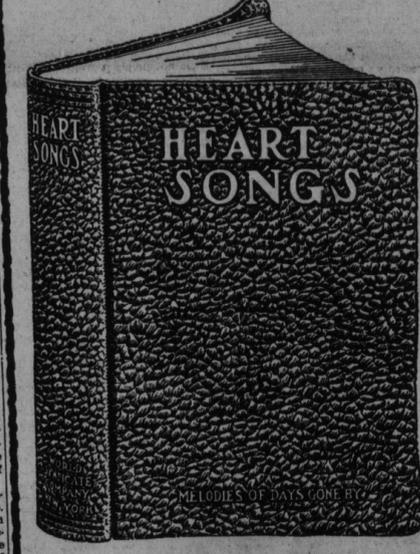
A considerable portion of the report deals with waste and extravagance. There has been waste in marketing, waste through purchase in small quantities, a tendency to get flavor or tenderness instead of nutrition, and sheer extravagance in the waste of cooked foods, etc.

Washington, Feb. 16.—American-made munitions now are pouring into Europe at the rate of nearly two million dollars worth daily, with the figures swelling rapidly as production increases. For a long time after the war began shipments were negligible, and not until the middle of 1915 did the millions of dollars worth of war materials contracted for begin to move in considerable quantities.

Estimates made at the Department of Commerce today put the total munition shipments since Europe began to purchase for the present war close to a quarter of a billion dollars. As the rate shipments were going on for the first four months of the year, the left American shores. Powder comes nearly one hundred million dollars worth of which have nearly one hundred million dollars worth of small arms cartridges are third with \$30,000,000. Five arms, including ordnance exports, are put at less than \$20,000,000, with small increases shown. The heaviest month's fire arms shipment was in January, 1915, when more than \$2,000,000 worth went to Europe.

The St. John Standard Song Book Has Taken the City by Storm Our Office is Visited Every Day Scores of Readers Who Want the Big Song Book

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SERBIA U. S. MUNITIONS VALUED AT \$2,000,000

Estimated quarter billion dollars worth sent to Europe since the war began

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PREMIER AND MRS. CLARKE LEAVING FOR TRIP TO CLIFTON SPRINGS

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, Feb. 16.—The provincial government concluded their meeting this afternoon with a meeting of the board of education at which routine matters were taken up.

The evening Attorney General Baxter left for St. John, but the other members are remaining for meetings of the treasury board and other committees of the council tomorrow.

The attorney general will be here again on Friday on business before the court of appeal.

Premier Clarke accompanied by Mrs. Clarke is expected to leave in a few days for Clifton Springs to enjoy a rest that health resort prior to the opening of the session of the legislature which, as stated in The Standard today, will not now open until March 9th.

DEATH COMES SUDDENLY TO DORCHESTER MAN

Special to The Standard. Dorchester, N. B., Feb. 16.—Death came with startling suddenness this evening at five o'clock to Nehemiah Cole, one of the oldest and best known farmers at Rockland, about two miles from Dorchester. He was about his accustomed duties throughout the forenoon. On coming in dinner he complained of feeling tired. He remained on the sofa during the afternoon and death came at five o'clock. He was 82 years of age. He is survived by two daughters and three sons. Notice of funeral announced later.

Pneumonia Finds Its Weakened By Col

This Letter Tells How to Gain Strength by Using Dr. Chase's Nerve Food is Prevented

Epidemics of colds and grip are almost invariably followed by much loss of life from pneumonia. When the body is worn down by colds and the lungs weakened from coughing, pneumonia finds an easy victim.

Careful inquiry into many thousands of cases of pneumonia shows that this disease usually attacks the person who is tired and worn out, and who is therefore lacking in resisting power.

In this letter is described a case in which the patient was in the greatest danger of contracting pneumonia or some similar disease, but fortunately sought the aid of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food and was soon restored to health and strength.

Miss E. J. Russell, Centralia, Ont., writes: "Last winter my mother contracted a bad cold. She was bothered with shortness of breath, wheezing, fevered and too sore to cough. Our doctor prescribed treatment which brought relief from these symptoms, but when she got up she