

NAVAL PROGRAMME PROPOSED BY UNITED STATES PREGNANT WITH INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

Uncle Sam Places His Cards on the Table—Now Up to Other Nations.

DELEGATES STUNNED BY PROPOSITION

British Favorably Inclined to Proposals Set Forth by Secretary Hughes.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 13.—(Canadian Press)—A stop, characterized by one of Britain's delegates as "pregnant with infinite possibilities," was proposed by the United States Government yesterday when Secretary Hughes, head of the United States delegation, addressing the opening session of the disarmament conference put forward his naval programme.

Thus, at the first sitting of the Conference, Uncle Sam has placed all his cards upon the table, and it is now up to the other nations to show their hands. Mr. Hughes' programme, unfolded with great care and fortified by a formidable array of statistics, and put forward without the slightest vagueness or indefiniteness, came almost as a bolt from a clear sky. Every body expected the United States to take some kind of a lead, but nobody expected that it would have a disarmament programme to submit to the first sitting of the Conference, or that it would be upon so prodigious a scale.

Effect Upon Delegates

As the Secretary outlined his proposals, it was intensely interesting to note the effect upon the delegates. The Japanese, grouped together at the opposite end of the table, sat motionless, inflexible, inscrutable. No word, nor whisper, nor gesture passed between them; not a sign to reveal what they thought. The Chinese were much older than when in Canada last, and a little tired, sat straight up in unfeigned surprise; Lord Lee leaned forward with intense interest; and Mr. Hughes announced the United States' willingness to sacrifice thirty of its capital ships, Lord Beatty swung around in his chair as though he disbelieved his own ears.

Speeches Non-committal

The speeches that followed were, of course, non-committal. Mr. Balfour, who, earlier in the sitting, had moved that Mr. Hughes be the presiding officer of the conference, did not speak again, but the delegates of all the other nations were heard in turn, and the Japanese spokesman, who read from a manuscript, reaffirmed Japan's desire for peace; Mr. Briand favored disarmament "with security" in significant phrases; and the representative of the other nations spoke in similar vein.

British Favorably Inclined

But tonight, when the delegates have had time to study the proposals, to consult their colleagues and their experts and advisers, the atmosphere is astonishingly favorable to them. None of the delegates would leave direct statements, preferring to make a closer study of the details of the programme and to await a report from their technical advisers upon the large amount of data tabulated by Mr. Hughes, but unofficially and authoritatively it can be stated that both the Japanese and the British are favorably inclined.

Nevertheless—and this warning comes from high sources—it would be too optimistic to assume that disarmament is settled, that all that is now required is that the delegates shall accept the United States proposal and sit down together to work out its details. In the background, it is pointed out, there is the Far Eastern problem. There is China, there is Siberia and there is the Anglo-Japanese alliance.

Until these problems are out of the way, until the clouds in the Orient have been cleared, the path to realization of the Hughes' plan will be beset with difficulties. There is no doubt that these exist; but there is a deep antagonism to great armaments. Mr. Harding's statement, "we are opposed to disarmament and we have won," brought two hundred United States congressmen, gathered in the gallery, to their feet in shrill, approving cheers; and when later on Mr. Hughes used a similar phrase, a demonstration was begun which brought everybody, including delegates, to their feet in a sustained salvo of applause.

Meanwhile, experts are hard at work analyzing the details of the Hughes scheme. By Tuesday when the conference resumes, their reports will be in the hands of the delegates and they will be clear for an exchange of views.

(Summary of Hughes' proposals on page 2)

BELIEF GENERAL THAT JAPANESE ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT U. S. PROPOSAL

Washington, Nov. 13.—(Canadian Press)—The impression is general, although it has not been officially confirmed, that the Japanese are agreeably impressed by, if not actually willing to accept the Hughes proposals for limitation of naval armaments. This belief appeared to be further confirmed by few remarks made this evening by the Japanese delegates at a formal reception at the Shoreham Hotel, by Baron Shidehara, Japanese ambassador. In brief addresses both Baron Kato and Prince Toguwaya expressed the most optimistic views.

PREMIER FAVORS PERMANENT ADOPTION OF PRESENT BONUS TO SOLDIER PENSION RATES

Prime Minister in Answer to Questions Put by G. W. V. A. Declares in Favor of Immediate Steps Toward the Relief of Unemployment and Points to Measures Already Taken to Relieve Unemployment.

Ottawa, Nov. 13.—(Canadian Press)—Replying to questions on soldier problems put forward by the Dominion Command, Great War Veterans' Association, to the leaders of the three political parties, Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen declares that he is in favor of legislation enabling the permanent adoption of the present bonus to the pension rates, if, after a reasonable time, experience shows that the cost of living was not going down.

"It seems to me, though," Mr. Meighen states, "the best way to deal with such a subject, and to receive such recommendations as to making it permanent or not, is through the medium of a joint parliamentary enquiry such as has been adopted with much success."

Mr. Meighen does not think that the relation established by past committees between the cost of living, shown by the index, and the pension rates, should be affected to the disadvantage of the pensioner.

Dealing with the question relating to the cost of living, he says, the rate of one dollar per one per cent of disability, Mr. Meighen says that he is advised that pensions awarded to married disabled pensioners are in practically every case higher than the payment suggested.

General Smuts Strongly Supports League of Nations

Believes League Will Receive New and Deserved Assurances from Conference.

London, Nov. 13.—A Reuter cable from Pretoria, South Africa, says a strong plea for support of the League of Nations was voiced by Premier General Smuts in an address delivered in the Pretoria Town Hall on Saturday. General Smuts, who incidentally noted with regret the apathy in South Africa regarding the League, believed it would get new assistance from the Washington Conference, on the importance of which he laid stress, for the great work for which it stood.

In support of the argument that the League could never be a success while large tracts of the world are excluded, he advanced the original view that Russia and Germany should be made to join the League if they failed to do so voluntarily.

He also considered the main function of the League should be to regulate the economic relations between nations—the weak spot of the present system.

Remarkable Case Heard in France Parents Claim Daughter is Marrying Against Her Own Free Will.

Paris, Nov. 13.—A marriage cannot take place except by free consent, says French law. Arguing this, a well-known Parisian family has applied for legal powers to prevent the union of their daughter with a foreign sculptor. The young people's romance is of an unusual nature. Some months ago the young girl accompanied by a sculptor, who entertained friendly relations with her family, went to visit the salon of a celebrated fortune teller. After giving many details of the girl's past, with startling accuracy, the fortune teller concluded by telling her that her future happiness would be assured if she married her young companion. Greatly

PREMIER ENDS CAMPAIGN IN EAST PROVINCES

Prime Minister Convinced Swing of Victory in These Provinces is With Him.

MONTREAL GAZETTE MAKES FORECAST

Based on Reports Received from Well Informed Persons Throughout Canada.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Nov. 13.—The Prime Minister has just completed one of the most remarkable political tours in Eastern Canada. He spoke at over one hundred meetings and the combined audiences totalled well over three hundred thousand. Hon. Mr. Meighen is convinced that in the five eastern provinces the swing of victory is with him, and that he will have a substantial majority over the Farmer-Liberal entente if he can break even west of Fort William. There is no doubt that he has inspired his party with victory, and in bringing to the government support union labor, the Unionist Liberals and the unattached women's vote has made victory probable where even the most optimistic two months ago could see only at best the largest parliamentary group.

Gazette Forecast.

Saturday's Montreal Gazette contains, in its Ottawa despatch, a forecast of the result based, it is claimed, on reports from well informed persons throughout Canada. This forecast has been verified by others in the several districts and may be taken as a fairly accurate estimate based on sentiment prevailing now. The forecast is as follows:

Prince Edward Island—Governments: 2; Liberal: 1; Farmer-Labor: 0; doubtful: 2. Total, 4.

Nova Scotia—Government: 7; Liberal: 5; Farmer-Labor: 1; doubtful: 3. Total, 11.

New Brunswick—Government: 10; Liberal: 3; Farmer-Labor: 3; doubtful: 15. Total, 31.

Quebec—Government: 10; Liberal: 3; Farmer-Labor: 3; doubtful: 15. Total, 31.

Ontario West—Government: 15; Liberal: 3; Farmer-Labor: 3; doubtful: 25. Total, 56.

Ontario East—Government: 14; Liberal: 2; Farmer-Labor: 3; doubtful: 21. Total, 50.

Manitoba—Government: 8; Liberal: 1; Farmer-Labor: 1; doubtful: 1. Total, 10.

Saskatchewan—Government: 4; Liberal: 2; Farmer-Labor: 3; doubtful: 14. Total, 23.

Alberta—Government: 4; Liberal: 0; Farmer-Labor: 7; doubtful: 2. Total, 13.

Yukon—Doubtful.

Whatever may be the result there can be no doubt of the effect of the Premier's campaign. He has won thousands of votes for his party, in Ontario and the Prairie Provinces, representing 135 members, the Liberal party, as the election approaches, becomes less and less a factor in the fight, and are only conceded slight representatives in these four provinces by the government. The real fight is between the Government and Farmer-Liberal party in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and British Columbia. Election betting all favors the Government, many wagers being placed that the Government will carry sixty seats in Ontario. In Quebec appears the greatest reversal of sentiment, and the estimate quoted is very modest compared to the expectations of government supporters in that province. Premier Meighen's successful Quebec tour has inspired his supporters and his castigation of Sir Lomer Gouin has driven that statesman into retirement. Ten days have passed since Mr. Meighen exposed in Montreal Sir Lomer Gouin's plot against the national railways, and the Quebec leader has not appeared on the platform or in print since.

The government campaign in Ontario has been stimulated by the appearance of Sir Thomas White on the platform, giving a complete endorsement to the Meighen policy. He will be joined in Ontario this week by Sir George E. Foster, who has just completed a successful tour of the Maritime Provinces. Premier Meighen will return to Ontario and Quebec for the last two weeks. Sentiment appears to be strongly with him in the two great provinces, and his supporters claim that the swing to the government, which is quite apparent, will increase daily until the day of decision.

Charles And Zita Off To Exile Home

Constantinople, Nov. 13.—The British light cruiser Cardiff, bearing former Emperor Charles of Austria, Hungary, and his wife, Zita, to their exile in the island of Madeira, left here today.

Baron Takahashi Japan's Premier

Tokyo, Nov. 13.—Baron Koroaki Takahashi, minister of finance in the Hara cabinet, today officially assumed the Premiership in succession to the late Takashi Hara, who was assassinated November 4.

NEW ENGLAND HAS HEAVY CROP OF HUNTING ACCIDENTS

Boston, Mass., Nov. 13.—Six persons shot to death in hunting accidents in New England were reported in the twenty-four hours ending last night.

Two men were killed in Maine by hunters who took them for deer. The others were shot by the accidental discharge of guns. In addition to the shooting fatalities a duck hunter was drowned at Winthrop, Me.

Sir Henry Drayton Withdraws From Carleton Riding

Some Opposition to Finance Minister Developed from Local Aspirants for Nomination.

Ottawa, Nov. 13.—(Canadian Press)—Following opposition to his candidature, Sir Henry Drayton, Minister of Finance, withdrew from the Carleton county government convention at Stittville on Saturday afternoon, William F. Garland, Ottawa druggist, former sitting member, and Rev. Robert H. Steacy, who both withdrew, Sir Henry Drayton's withdrawal followed as a result of the part of two of the nominees, R. O. Morris and Charles Craig, to retire, and an attack on the principle of choosing an "outsider" delivered by Rev. Mr. Steacy.

Scott Comments on Proposals of United States

Main Feature, He Says, is Whether Battleships Are to be Built or Not.

London, Nov. 14.—Rear Admiral Sir Percy Scott, former commander of the aerial defenses at London and an avowed opponent of big battleships, writing to the Times today, remarks that the main feature of Secretary Hughes' proposals is whether battleships are to be built or not.

"In regard to proposals of spending money on battleships as tonnage," declares Sir Percy. "Why is the country's purse controlled by landowners for the ships it proposes to build will cost one hundred million pounds. The government says this will give employment. So work the building of roads and for railways."

V. C. Men Return To Toronto From Washington

Toronto, Nov. 13.—Sergeant George Richardson, V. C., and Sergeant W. L. Rayfield, V. C., returned yesterday from Washington where they participated in the armistice day ceremonies. Sergeant Richardson, who is 31 years of age, was exhausted by the excitement of the trip and an ambulance was at the station to take him to his quarters. These two Victoria Cross men had the honor of meeting Marshal Foch, Admiral Beatty and other notables.

Drops Dead While Playing Golf

Wife of George Jay Gould Dies from Over-Exertion.

Lakewood, N. J., Nov. 13.—Mrs. George Jay Gould, wife of the capitalist, dropped dead today while playing golf with her husband on the private links at Georgian Court, their country home, near here.

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CANADIAN GOODS OVER GOV'T RAILS AND THROUGH OUR OWN PORTS, DECLARES DR. BAXTER

At Rousing Rally in Lorneville Minister of Customs and Excise and Colonel MacLaren With Other Speakers Clearly Set Forth Government's Position on Live Campaign Issues of the Day—Meighen's Railroad Policies Clearly Defined by the Minister—Tariff Problems Explained by Colonel MacLaren.

Hon. Dr. J. B. M. Baxter and Dr. Murray MacLaren were accorded a whole-hearted and most enthusiastic reception at Lorneville on Saturday evening. The meeting was held in Coronation Hall, and despite the threatened inclement weather, an exceedingly large crowd was present.

The chairman for the occasion was Wallace Galbraith, and in addition to the Minister of Customs and Excise and Dr. MacLaren, the speakers included Councillor W. E. Golding, Dr. J. K. Barton and Marshall Stout.

The chief feature of the meeting was the very brilliant speech of Hon. Dr. Baxter, who dealt with the railway policy of the government from an entirely different viewpoint and in a thoroughly convincing manner. In the course of his remarks, the Minister of Customs and Excise pointed out that, as soon as the government had actual possession of the Grand Trunk Railway it would for the first time have an opportunity to control the situation and be able to say that Canadian goods will be carried through Canada across the Province of New Brunswick. He also drew attention to the fact that in the past goods shipped on the Grand Trunk Railway could only be shipped through Canadian ports where they had not been routed by the shippers. It was very easy, however, the speaker pointed out, to divert the freight under such conditions.

Dr. Murray MacLaren was the first speaker, and immediately dealt with the tariff question from the point of view of those engaged in the fishing industry. He declared that, in order for the people in that business to make a living, it was necessary for them to have a market for their fish, and on account of the perishability of fresh fish it was essential that the market should be as near as possible to those who did not ship fish to the United States required a home market, and any policy which would be injurious to the individual life of Canada would hurt the people of Lorneville. As regards the people engaged in fishing on the bay and who exported to the United States, if the market in that country was not a sure one or the duty was too high, then it would be detrimental to them. The Fordney bill had raised the tariff considerably on Canadian goods to the injury of these people.

Considerable fish from that district was sent to St. John, and the success of the industry, locally, depends on whether the people of Lorneville received a good price. This depended on the supply, the number of consumers and whether or not the industrial condition in the city was a prosperous one. If the population of the city diminished through scarcity of work, or the citizens had not the money with which to purchase the product, then it would be detrimental to the fish industry in Lorneville or any other place in the province which depended on a home market as a means of livelihood.

The speaker pointed out that the question of employment hinged on the success of our industrial life; and the industries were largely affected by the tariff. The prosperity of the cities and their adjacent towns and villages was due to a proper tariff. Canada must have a tariff sufficient to protect our industries from competition with the smaller business establishments. This country required to protect its industries, so as to permit them to grow and expand. In referring to the so-called Progressive platform, Dr. MacLaren said that each class and occupation in Canada was dependent on the other, and there should be no such thing as one industry flourishing to the detriment of the other.

Councillor Golding.

Councillor W. E. Golding mentioned to the audience that Hon. Dr. Baxter had been before the people of that district in a public way for a number of years as member in the local house. The Prime Minister had recognized the marked ability of Hon. Dr. Baxter and had induced him to enter his cabinet as Minister of Customs and Excise. The record of Hon. Dr. Baxter had been one to be proud of, and he predicted that the Minister of Customs and Excise would receive the largest majority in Lorneville that had ever been accorded to a political candidate in New Brunswick.

Mr. Golding reminded his hearers of the splendid military record of Dr. MacLaren who had served with the Canadian forces overseas for five years and nine months. He also pointed out that it was in the interests of the citizens of Lorneville to support the government candidates.

Why Blame Meighen?

Dr. J. K. Barton declared it was ridiculous to blame Premier Meighen and his government for the hard times, as a similar condition existed

in the United States. In that country the industries had been recently seriously affected and several banks had been forced to close in North Dakota. England also suffered from the depression. It was a world-wide condition and could not be attributed to any government.

Mr. Stout said that, owing to the nature of his business, he had made special study of the tariff question, and he felt absolutely certain that it was the paramount issue of the campaign. The policy of the Meighen government was a straightforward one; but no one knew what tariff programs the King party had in view. He believed in voting for a government that was absolutely candid to the public and could a policy that was not afraid to discuss throughout the breadth of Canada.

Dr. Baxter Cheers.

The Hon. Dr. Baxter was roundly cheered when called upon to address the meeting by the chairman. The Minister of Customs and Excise declared that he observed from articles which had appeared in the St. John Telegraph that there was likely to be some discussion on the railway question during the present campaign. The Government had taken over the Canadian National Railway, and recently it had had a valuation made of the Grand Trunk Railway, but it had not yet actual possession of the latter. The Grand Trunk Pacific had also been handed over to the Government. The result was that, within a very short time, Canada will have 22,000 miles of railway in its possession. These railways had been going into bankruptcy, and the Laurier government had built or guaranteed the bonds on these roads. If the roads had been permitted to go into bankruptcy Canada would have had to pay interest on the bonds guaranteed.

Laurier Government at Fault.

The Laurier government had also built the Transcontinental Railway across the Province of New Brunswick. It should have run the line down the St. John Valley and used the intercolonial railway to Moncton. This had not been done, and the burden of the construction of the St. John Valley Railway had been thrown upon the people of the Province of New Brunswick. This work, in all probability, would have been completed, however, if it had not been for the European war.

Hon. W. S. Fielding had estimated that the building of the Transcontinental railway would cost the country \$13,000,000, but the railway policy of the Laurier government had incurred a burden upon Canada amounting in the neighborhood of \$550,000,000.

Problem That Faces Meighen.

The Meighen Government had been confronted with the problem of either taking over the railways in question or allowing them to go into bankruptcy. In such an event the country would have had to pay all defaulted interest on the bonds, and there would be no way whatever of getting any of the money back. It was admitted that the building of a railway had been constructed about twenty-five years ahead of their time. In building the line north of Edmonton a system had been constructed which could not pay for the wheels of its cars. A similar thing had been done in regard to the Canadian National Railway in Southern Alberta. The Canadian Pacific Railway had already constructed a line over the one thousand miles of bad country in question, and running this could have been secured on it instead of burdening the country with such a useless expenditure. Yet, (Continued on page 3)

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

The new owners of The Standard have decided to extend all paid-up subscriptions six weeks, owing to the suspension of the paper from July 22nd to Sept. 6th. This will apply to subscriptions in arrears at the time publication was stopped, when the arrears are paid. THE ST. JOHN STANDARD