

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1915.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved"—H. M. The King.  
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

### CANADA FEELS NO "PINCH"

An interesting condition that may or may not account for some of the indifference in regard to recruiting displayed by many of the young men who are not yet in khaki is revealed by the Labor Gazette which says that the cost of living in Canada today is actually lower than before the war broke out.

For the purposes of its computations the Labor Gazette takes a family of five persons as typical of the ordinary Canadian household and bases its figures on the necessary expenditures of such a family. By taking expenditures for staple articles of food, adding costs of rent, light, fuel, etc., based on prices obtained in sixty Canadian cities, and striking an average therefrom, the Labor Gazette shows that from April to July of this year the cost of living was lower than at any previous period. For the month of January, 1914, the figure was \$14.49 per week, for July, 1914, the week preceding the war, \$14.47, and for July, 1915, after one year of war, \$13.76.

Comparison of the prices of some of the staples in July, 1915, with the price for the same articles one year before, shows that in this year beef and mutton were about the same, pork cheaper, bacon slightly dearer, eggs cheaper, milk and butter and cheese dearer, bread and flour and sugar much dearer, tea and coffee slightly dearer, potatoes almost half price and oatmeal cheaper. On the whole food is dearer, the total outlay for a family of five being estimated at \$7.78 per week as against \$7.41 in July, 1914.

Fuel and lighting are slightly cheaper, but there has been a decline in rent, sufficient to overcome the higher price of foods and make the total cost less in July, 1915, than it was one year ago. Rent shows an average decline of 81 cents per week.

On the whole, the cost of living has not advanced as might be expected and there is nothing in the way of food shortages or higher prices to bring sharply to the minds of Canadians the fact that the Empire is engaged in a life and death struggle.

Canadians are living easily and in safety, thanks to the mighty protective power of the British navy. That very security, however, may be one of the causes of the comparative indifference with which many young men regard the appeal for men to swell the Empire's armies. They should not forget however that their security is conditional upon the ability of Great Britain and her allies to hold the Teutonic enemies in check. Once that ability fails Canada will feel the difference, but then it may be too late to make effective defence.

Canada has not yet been pinched by the war to the degree where her young men will volunteer to exchange comfort at home for hardship at the front. If their homes were actually attacked the men of Canada would fight. But why wait for that? Why not enlist now where there is an opportunity for more effective work?

### LAURIER AND THE NAVY

In any comparison of the emergency naval policy of Sir Robert Borden with the permanent policy which Sir Wilfrid Laurier advocated, it should be remembered that one of the most commendable features of Sir Robert's proposed gift to Britain was that the ships should be under the complete control of any part of the world, or used for any duty the Admiralty might determine.

The Laurier policy, on the contrary, did not place the ships unreservedly at the disposal of the Admiralty. In commenting upon Sir Wilfrid's statement to this effect Liberal papers have been fond of quoting a part of the Liberal leader's speech, but are careful to refrain from giving publicity to the whole of it, or to the sentiments expressed by supporters of Laurier who, so far as known, were never taken to task by him for their expressions.

The Laurier brand of navy was not to pass automatically under the control of the Admiralty in time of war; but, in case of emergency, defined by the bill as "war, invasion, riot or insurrection, real or apprehended," it might be placed by the government at

the Admiralty's disposal for general service. If Parliament was not in session when such an occasion arose the government could, if it chose, make the offer and Parliament was to be summoned within fifteen days to approve of the action. In the event that the government did not place the Laurier navy at the disposal of the Admiralty there was no special provision whereby the house should be convened to force such action.

Liberal papers will say that to raise this point is but straining at a gnat for Sir Wilfrid himself plainly stated "when England is at war Canada is at war," and that amply defines his position. Sir Wilfrid did make the statement credited to him, but he also said more. His complete utterance on that question is to be found in Hansard for 1909, 1910, on page 2965, and is as follows:

"If England is at war we are at war and liable to attack. I do not say that we shall always be attacked. NEITHER DO I SAY THAT WE WOULD TAKE PART IN ALL THE WARS OF ENGLAND. That is a matter that must be determined by circumstances, upon which the Canadian Parliament will have to decide in its own best judgment."

But Liberal papers say, Sir Wilfrid Laurier is a true Imperialist and has never expressed any but Imperialistic sentiments. His own record is sufficient guarantee that in time of war the Canadian navy would be absolutely at the disposal of the Admiralty as his whole hope for Canada has been to have her develop as a great and free factor of the British Empire. Again the answer is found in Hansard. In the volume for 1892 we find Sir Wilfrid, not then premier, but leader of the Liberal party, summarizing his own doctrine and the hope of Liberalism as follows:

"I hold out to my fellow countrymen the idea of independence, but when the idea of independence, it must come by the consent of both countries, and we shall continue to keep the good feeling and the good-will of the motherland. If we are true to our record, we will again exhibit to the world the unique, the unprecedented example of a nation achieving its independence by slow degrees, and as naturally as the severing of the ripe fruit from the parent tree."

And, again, he is found saying: "Is there a Canadian anywhere who would not hail with joy the day when we would be deprived of the services of British diplomacy?"

Once more he is quoted as follows: "I HAVE AGAIN AND AGAIN REPEATED THAT THE GOAL OF MY ASPIRATION IS THE INDEPENDENCE OF CANADA. TO SEE CANADA AN INDEPENDENT NATION IN DUE COURSE OF TIME."

But, Liberals will argue, that was years ago and the Laurier of 1909-10, or even of 1912-13, is no more to be judged by his utterances of 1892 than the Pugsley of today should be judged by his opinions when he was a Conservative in Kings' county, or the Telegraph's views of today by those of 1908 or 1904.

Well, even though Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1910 may not have advocated the adoption of his naval policy as a step to Canadian independence, his pet hobby of former years, there is nothing on the record to show that he repudiated certain of his supporters who, in the house and out of it, did not hesitate to take that view. Here are a few examples.

Dr. Turcotte, Liberal member for Nicolet: "Is it not proper and fair to acknowledge that the Canadian people gravitate towards and aspire after a state of complete development, complete maturity which cannot alter all be anything but independence if not annexation.... The establishment of a war navy will, in my humble opinion, be the last step toward independence."

Mr. M. Y. McLean, Liberal member for South Huron: "I say this claim of our hon. friends opposite that we are greatly indebted to Great Britain is a fallacy which cannot be supported by fact. As a Canadian I wish to say that we are in a material sense not indebted to Great Britain for anything, and in no sense is Canada indebted to her for more than good-will and filial affection."

Other statements, similar in tenor,

could be quoted, but the foregoing suffice to show the opinion of Sir Wilfrid's supporters and the fact that the Liberal premier was in the House of Commons when they were made and did not attempt to contradict the impression they created. Illustrates plainly that he was well satisfied to have that impression go broadcast as the mind of the Liberal party.

The Laurier naval policy was for a navy that might or might not be at the disposal of the British Admiralty and, in the Liberal mind, such a navy was a step to Canadian independence. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, by his own statements, is shown to have been in favor of Canadian independence, not in his salad days, but after he had risen to a position of importance, honor and responsibility as the leader of one of the great Canadian parties.

Sir Robert Borden's emergency policy was designed to unquestionably meet the wishes of the British Admiralty and give immediate and effective aid. The Liberals, led by the same Laurier fought it tooth and nail and, finally, the same Laurier used his influence on his Liberal majority in the Canadian Senate to kill the bill and render it ineffective.

Will the Telegraph today presume to say that the Liberal opposition to the Borden naval policy was in no way influenced by the Laurier aspiration for an independent Canada, or, while urging its readers to support the Laurier who fathered the opposition of 1912, will it repudiate the Laurier of earlier days who declared that "the goal of my aspiration is the independence of Canada?"

### The Wise Policy

(Toronto News)

The strain of war-time conditions is testing men and making many things plain. For one thing it has greatly enhanced the reputation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Fourteen months of confusion in international finance have revealed the wide fiscal knowledge, the broad grasp of economic questions, the strength of purpose and the remarkable resourcefulness of which Mr. White is possessed. Despite persistent opposition efforts to belittle the measures which he introduced several months ago to stimulate a fallow season, his measures have absolutely justified themselves.

They have done just what he said they would do. For the first six months of the fiscal year they have made up for the shrinkage in ordinary revenue, which he forecast and provided against. The February budget, with its special war taxation and increases in the customs rates, arrested the decline in the national income and restored the revenues to their normal condition. The result has been that since April 1st the revenue has equalled that of the previous year until the end of August, while for September a gain of nearly three million dollars is registered, with promise of continuance the heaviest revenue-producing periods of the year.

Not only this! In six months Mr. White has effected a saving of nearly \$10,000,000 in ordinary controllable expenditure. Nor was this reduction attained without prayer and fasting. The curtailment has been secured only through the Finance Minister's strength of will and capacity to say "No." If the tax-payers could have been behind the scenes for a year past they would appreciate the successful fight that has been waged in protection of the Treasury—not against wrongful expenditures, but against appropriation that are not expedient in war time.

The Minister has been constantly assisted by the representatives of public and private enterprises. Promoters, contractors, log-rollers, municipalities and provinces have stood in line at his door in order to plead for all sorts of projects and undertakings, which in ordinary times might reasonably ask for Governmental assistance. To one and all the Watchdog of the Treasury has said: "The war is our first business. We cannot bear its burden and increase our ordinary expenditures. Good works must wait, and others will not be prosecuted at all. We must preserve the credit of the Dominion and keep our finances on a strong basis."

This policy, adopted from the outset of the war, has more than justified itself. It has left the Treasury with ample funds for raising, training, equipping and paying the troops. It goes without saying that Mr. White proposes to continue this course until the end of the war, when in order to bridge an inevitable period of industrial dislocation and readjustment, it may be expedient to promote necessary and useful public works on a large scale. This policy and the results it has already brought must appeal to business men as eminently sound, and therefore highly satisfactory. What is more, the facts render hopelessly ridiculous the persistent efforts of The Toronto Globe, The Winnipeg Free Press and other Liberal newspapers, to convict the Finance Minister of extravagance and improvidence.

As the months of war drag on, it becomes increasingly apparent that Canada is exceedingly fortunate in having as Finance Minister a man of vision and executive capacity, a really great financier, who deals on equal terms with the Imperial Treasury, the Bank of England, and the great international banking houses, which have their offices in New York and London. His ability to meet new crises in a practical and effective manner has been demonstrated afresh by his amendments to the Bank Act, enabling the chartered banks to lend the farmers money on the security of grain stored in their own granaries, and by

## Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

There was a kid with a bull dawg down at the corner today, the kid being little but tall looking and the bull dawg being big as anything and even tuffer looking than wat the kid was, with red in its eyes and 2 teeth sticking out in front, and me and Sid Hunt and Puds Simkins stood there looking at it, but not standing so very close to it, and after a while Puds sed to the kid, Sid, will that dawg bite.

He nevvr has yet, sed the kid. I ain't afraided of it, sed Sid Hunt. And he wawked rite up and stood in front of the dawg, and me and Puds Simkins wawked up and stood alawgside of Sid, and the bul dawg just kepp awn setting there awn its hine legs looking at us as if it wassent very glad to see us but didnt care much weathir we stayed or not.

G, look at the red in its eyes, I sed. Thats awthing, that belawgs there, sed Sid Hunt. And he startid to wawe his hands around in front of the bull dawg's face sayins, Look wat I can do to it.

Thats awthing, sed Puds Simkins. And he put his foot out and tickled the bull dawg in the buzzum with his toe, sayins, Look at wat I can do to him.

Welch the bull dawg jest kepp awn setting there looking up at Puds but not saying awthing, and I sed, Thats awthing. And I reetched down and got hold of the bull dawgs tale and startid to tern it around as if it was the handli of a organ, and the bull dawg startid to make a fence noise way down in its stummick or sumwars, and I quirk jumped back, but no quicker than war Puds and Sid did.

Aw you sure that dawg wont bite, I sed to the kid. No, he nevvr bites, sed the kid, he jest takes hunk out of peepil without biting them. And the dawg kepp awn growing in its stummick and looking at us as if it thert we didnt have any rite standing there and me and Puds and Sid wawked away slow as if we was tired of being there and wanted to be sumwars els, but not as if we was afraided of the bull dawg.

his recent action in offering to advance Government funds for this purpose. Because of this recourse no shortage of transportation facilities is anticipated, because of the war, will compel the Western farmer to remain out of his year's income all winter. The foresight which the Minister showed in securing \$45,000,000 in the New York market before the big Ally loan raised the price of funds is fresh in everyone's mind. Ever since Germany shook the financial world by her sudden invasion of Belgium, Mr. White has handled the finances of the Dominion in a manner that can only be described as masterly and that has saved the country from much of the inconvenience and loss that otherwise would have sprung from the war.

### A New Aircraft

(Vancouver Sun.)

The British government has a new type of aircraft, which surpasses any other in existence. At least, such is the statement made in New York by Commander Potts, of the Royal Aviation Depot at Hendon. The new machine, which has been tested and exceeds all its requirements by 20 per cent, has a wing expansion of 102 feet in length. Carrying 2,000 pounds it achieved a speed of ninety-five miles an hour. The machine extends in front and in rear of the wings and carries quick-firers at each end, which are so mounted as to give them unlimited range. The inventor in charge of such a craft and, therefore, attack his opponent from any position. Hitherto it has been necessary to get above an enemy aircraft. It can carry a ton of explosives, and by employing a new arrangement the shells can be sent accurately at the object intended to be destroyed.

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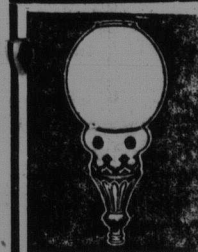
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