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LORD MILNER AND CANADIAN NAVAL POLICIES.

Speaking at Peterboro, Ontario, Sir Wilfrid Laurier has endeavored to defend his naval policy by attributing to Lord Milner the assertion "that a Canadian navy was the best way by which Canada could come to the assistance of the Mother Country." Continuing his address the Leader of the Opposition is reported in the Peterboro' Examiner (Liberal) as follows:

"In 1909 had come the formulation of his navy policy, which proposed that Canada should establish a naval service of her own, under the control of the Parliament of Canada and the people of Canada, and placed at the disposal of England in times of need. It had been claimed by the Opposition that this was not a sound policy; that the navy thus created should come automatically under the control of the British Admiralty. It was easy to create suspicion, but in the statement of Lord Milner, that the construction of a Canadian navy was the best way to solve the problem, he felt that he could claim justification for the course adopted. After that testimony, no man would be able to say that the Liberals were disloyal."

This led the Toronto Mail and Empire to communicate with Lord Milner at Montreal. Lord Milner telegraphed the following reply, which gives his views on the defence question more fully than did Sir Wilfrid:

"Believe Sir Wilfrid was alluding to my speech in Toronto four years ago. I then advocated a Canadian navy, but specially emphasized that it should be for Imperial, not merely for Canadian, purposes. What I said to the reporters at Halifax during my present visit was substantially as follows: 'Don't ask me what form Canadian assistance in Imperial Defence should take. That is a question for Canadians. The British people will welcome anything Canada may decide to do, and appreciate the spirit in which she has taken the matter up. Personally, I favor Canada and the other self-governing Dominions creating their own navies, though this would be of little use if, when established, they did not act as one. Meanwhile, as it will take time to build up a Canadian navy, a direct contribution to the British Navy may be desirable—preferably of ships, not money. But any share the Dominions take in Imperial Defence should involve a share in control of policy. They are not tributary States, but partners in the Empire."

(Signed) "MILNER."

Lord Milner's statement makes it clear that he is no believer in the Laurier naval policy. The proposed navy was in no sense of the word Imperial. It was to be a local navy which, under the act passed by the late Government, would have had no unity of organization or of action with the British Admiralty. The Laurier navy, had it ever materialized, would not have passed automatically under the control of the Admiralty in time of war. It might be placed at the disposal of the Admiralty, according to the terms of the act, only if the Government saw fit.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's unfortunate reference to Lord Milner has served to emphasize the fact that the latter is in accord with Mr. Borden's policy that the navies of the Empire must "act as one." It is instructive to recall Mr. Borden's statement on this point on the third reading of the Navy Bill. He said:

"What I contend for is the principle that in time of war there shall be one united naval force for the whole Empire, and that naval force shall be available to meet any enemy that may assail the integrity of the Empire. . . . . But there is something beyond and above all that. If the naval forces of the Mother Country and all the Dominions form part of one great united naval force of the Empire in time of war what follows? Any enemy assailing the British Empire knows that it must meet those forces in time of war, that they are available for attack or resistance, for upholding the integrity of the Empire and the supremacy of its sea control. What is the other alternative? Under the proposals of the Government what may an enemy anticipate? It may anticipate that it will have to meet the naval forces of the Mother Country plus a potential Order-in-Council which may not come into force until the integrity of the Empire shall have been destroyed.

"The proposals of the Government seem to me in one aspect to be absurd and unworkable, but in another aspect they are dangerous and revolutionary. In so far as they are not unworkable, they are dangerous; in so far as they are not absurd they are revolutionary because it is absolutely inconceivable that if Great Britain were engaged in a naval war and the Canadian naval force acted as if it belonged not to the Empire or to Canada, but to some neutral country, such a condition would not lead or at least conduce to the early separation of this country from the British Empire.

"I am desirous that this country shall co-operate upon some permanent basis in the naval defence of the Empire. I do not see how it is possible for us to remain within the Empire without taking some responsibility in that regard. What will the proposal of the Government work out to? If we are to abstain from taking part in some war which may concern Great Britain or other Dominions of the Empire chiefly, will Great Britain, on the other hand, when our Pacific coast may be assailed, say that she will take no part on our behalf, and that her navy shall remain in the North Sea? I am disposed to think that there is only one way of dealing with the naval forces of the Empire, and that is to have them united under some central control, and let the world know that those united forces are available for the maintenance of the sea supremacy of the Empire in time of war. They may not be called upon when certain wars occur, even wars involving the employment of the naval forces; but the mere fact that they are available is the important consideration. This is the principle I stand for and the principle I desire to see carried out. It is desirable, in the first place, that we should co-operate upon some permanent basis. It is desirable, in the second place, that if the conditions of the Empire at the present time are emergent, we should bear some immediate and effective aid to the Empire as a whole."

It will be noted that Lord Milner is at one with Mr. Borden that a direct contribution may be desirable. On the question of a permanent naval policy for the Dominion Lord Milner is also in agreement with the Prime Minister. He points out that "any share the Dominions take in Imperial Defence should involve a share in control of policy." Mr. Borden maintains that Canada should not be "a silent partner," but that in adopting a policy of co-operation in Imperial Defence should have some voice in Imperial naval administration and in questions involving peace and war.

THE WORK OF THE GRAIN COMMISSION.

The appointment of the Grain Commission by the Government has resulted in important changes in the handling of grain which promise to remedy many of the long-standing grievances of the Western farmers. The Commission which consists of Prof. Magill, Mr. W. D. Staples and Mr. Frank N. Gibbs, has been making a serious of study of the whole grain problem. It has made a tour of the West from Fort William to Vancouver and has studied at first hand the many intricate questions which arise in connection with transportation. Reforms looking to the protection of both the producer and consumer are now being effected.

In the first place a large public-owned elevator is being built at Fort William, where farmers can ship their grain and can be certain that there is none of the degrading by mixing which has been so often complained of in the past. The elevator will be one of the largest at the head of the lakes and will be a model elevator in every respect. The contract has already been let and work is being rushed as rapidly as possible.

A public laboratory is to be established at Winnipeg for the purpose of testing samples of grain sent in by farmers. Reports as to the milling qualities of the grain, the degree of moisture it contains, if any, and its commercial value when less than standard grade will be made to the farmers free of charge. In this way the grain growers can ascertain with accuracy the commercial value of their wet or damaged grain.

Four travelling inspectors have also been appointed by the Government through the Grain Commission whose duty it will be to examine and deal with all questions of car distribution, weights, and grain shrinkage in transit. Full authority will be vested in these inspectors. It has been decided to take the weighing of grain at Fort William out of the jurisdiction of the Department of Inland Revenue and place it under the Department of Trade and Commerce.

A sample market which is one of the reforms which has long been demanded by the grain growers of the West will be established at Winnipeg. Arrangements have been completed with the Winnipeg Grain Exchange to double the capacity of their building in order to provide room for the market. Another market will be located at Calgary and probably a third at Moose Jaw.

CANADIAN TRADE THROUGH CANADIAN PORTS.

Speaking at Quebec last Friday at a banquet given by the Harbor Commissioners to the Federal Ministers, Mr. Hazen is reported to have said that "he hoped the time would come when every pound of outgoing Canadian produce would be carried all the way over Canadian lines to be shipped from Canadian ports." The developments which are being carried out by the Government at all the great ports of the Dominion are convincing evidence that they have this end in view. It is not a new doctrine which Mr. Hazen enunciated, but the ports of Montreal, Quebec, Halifax and St. John have the satisfaction of knowing that the Government now in power, unlike their predecessors, practice what they preach.

The people of St. John were told on one occasion by Sir Wilfrid Laurier that he would never rest until every pound of Canadian freight was carried through Canadian channels to Canadian ports. This was also the laudable intention of Mr. Pugsley, expressed on many public platforms in this Province, until Reciprocity with the United States became the late Government's policy. Then we witnessed a marvellous acrobatic performance. Mr. Pugsley, the representative of St. John, the Winter Port of the Dominion, ignored the oft repeated pledges he had made and urged the adoption of an Agreement which would have diverted Western grain into the transportation channels of the United States, to be shipped from the ports of Portland, Boston and New York.

The defeat of Reciprocity meant much to all the great natural ports of Canada and to none more so than to the port of St. John. Under the wise and prudent policy of the Borden Government to increase the facilities for trade within the Empire the steady development of the ports of the Dominion is assured.

Current Comment

"Wider Markets."
(Calgary Herald.)

The busy politicians who "commandeered" the Western Grain Growers' Association in the Dominion election and used it as a party machine, still keep bobbing up with their cry of "wider markets." These frantic partisans continue to flatter themselves that the people can be humbugged by the vain repetition of the campaign phrase, when, as a matter of fact, the people are seeing more clearly every day that the "wider market" into which it was sought to lure them would have been their undoing. Even now with a wheat duty of twelve cents a bushel in their favor, the farmers of Canada see cargoes and trainloads of United States wheat being delivered from time to time at flour mills in this country.

A Needed Reform.
(Ottawa Citizen.)

A female police officer has just been appointed in Edmonton. Her task will be to take charge of the girls coming before the court. Here is a reform worth imitating. It is high time that women criminals were taken in charge by women, instead of men.

No Lost Youth Restored.
(Vancouver Province.)

The ageing of wine by electricity has been followed by the ageing of cheese by the same subtle current. Ageing seems to be easy, but there is wealth awaiting the man who can restore the youth of an egg or of a salmon trout.

The Height of Hospitality.
(Montreal Herald.)

It is something to know that if Miss Wylie has to be sent to jail for window smashing in Montreal we will have a fine new jail to send her to if she can wait long enough for it to be finished.

More Canadian Channels.
(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)

The Minister of Railways is dealing with the prospect of a fifth Canadian line of railway from the Prairies to the Coast. There are more to follow.

Fallen From Grace.
(Hamilton Spectator.)

Is that sign, "Toronto the Good," still hanging over its city hall? If so, in the interests of truth, please have it removed at once!

HAD NAAROW ESCAPE FROM SERIOUS INJURY

An accident that almost ended seriously for those concerned occurred on Duke street, on the West Side, last Saturday afternoon when a horse attached to a buggy in which John Montgomery, his two daughters and a little boy were driving, ran away, ending his wild career by colliding with a telephone pole, the shock of the collision throwing the occupants of the buggy out to the road. Luckily, however, beyond sundry cuts and bruises they escaped unhurt.

The animal without any warning jumped into a frantic run which Mr. Montgomery vainly tried to check. During his mad race down the street the horse kept edging in toward the sidewalk with the result that the wheels of the buggy finally struck a telephone pole at the corner of Duke and Ludlow street, the shock violently throwing the occupants of the carriage to the ground.

A crowd quickly congregated and helped to remove the unfortunate people to the office of Dr. J. L. Duval where necessary medical attendance was given.

Yesterday, beyond feeling stiff and sore, they were none the worse for the adventure.

THE ARRIVAL OF KITTY

Farce and comedy with music at popular prices will be introduced at the Opera House when "The Arrival of Kitty" will be presented this evening. This comedy contains a laugh in every line and also twelve good musical numbers. Hal Johnson, who plays the leading role, is a female impersonator of unusual ability. His performance as "Kitty" will be the first of its kind ever given in this city and is distinctly out of the ordinary. The play was given in Halifax last week and received the endorsement of the play-goers of that city.

THE TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY

Report on the dispensary work for September, 1912.

The dispensary was open to adults 8 days. children 4 days:

	Adults	Children	Total.
Attendances....	45	15	60
Prescriptions filled	43	4	47
Patients, new cures,.....	5	6	11
Under observation	17	5	22
Exposed to infection	10	11	21
Phthisis Pulmonalis	12	0	12
Discharged:			
Suspected cases cured..	0	3	
Referred to G. P. H.....	2	1	
Negative cures	7	2	
Left town..	2	1	
Died	1	0	
			19
Names on register Oct. 1st, 1912..	39	16	55

Patients receiving milk, 2
Places reported for fumigation, 1.
Unsanitary conditions reported, 2.
Visits, 60.

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City Rifle Match.

The regular spoon match of the City Rifle Club was held on the local range Saturday afternoon. There was a large number of competitors, as well as a good crowd of spectators. A feature of the day was the excellent shooting of F. G. Jones, who scored 100 out of a possible 105. His score by ranges was as follows: 200 yards, 32; 500 yards, 35; 600 yards, 33. The other winners were N. J. Morrison, first, with 95; J. J. Pinkerton, second, with 96; and David Connelly, third, with 96. Mr. Morrison had a handicap over the others.

Buried Yesterday.

The funeral of Miss Annie A. Clarke was held yesterday afternoon from the residence of her aunt, Mrs. Edward Palmer, 21 Delhi street. Funeral service was conducted at 3 o'clock by Rev. Dr. Raymond. Interment took place in Fernhill.

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