

The Church and the Naval Question

Rev. Dr. Sinclair, of Winnipeg, denounces both political programs—Would rather see \$35,000,000 thrown into the Atlantic—How Canada's action may obstruct peace—Where do the churches stand on this vital question?

Winnipeg, Jan. 23.—A scathing denunciation of both the Liberal and Conservative naval policies now before the people of Canada, was delivered by Rev. Dr. A. G. Sinclair, the pastor of St. Andrews' Presbyterian church, Winnipeg, in the course of his sermon last Sunday night. Taking as his text Psalm 120-7: "I aim for peace, but when I speak they are for war," the preacher declared that this was only one text of a great body of scripture, which might properly form the basis of a sermon condemning the spirit of war.

Fearful Burden of War

"I will not insult your intelligence," he began, "by discussing the waste and folly of war. I will take it for granted that you all admit this much, for only the fool nowadays talks of the glories and the benefits of war. What a spectacle it is that nineteen centuries since Christ lived on earth there are more battleships, fortresses, instruments of war and soldiers than ever before in the world's history! We are spending more on preparation for war than any generation before us spent on actual war. When will the nations see the folly and waste of this armed peace? Sir Edward Grey has truly said that if this mad race of militarism is not checked, it could only end in the breakdown of civilization. True peace can only be built upon confidence, not on fear, but this armed peace is founded on jealousy and distrust of other nations. The financial loss incurred by the upkeep of huge armaments among the six nations, Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia, Austria and the United States last year amounted to \$320,500,000 sterling. If to this sum be added the interest on war debts, the economic waste sustained by keeping the large standing armies out of productive employment, careful statisticians estimate that \$3,000,000,000 is spent by Christendom each year for military purposes. Yet only a few days ago it was announced with a good deal of self-congratulation that the world's total missionary givings last year amounted to some \$30,000,000. Canada's share of this was \$650,000, which was regarded as a magnificent total for the Christian churches altogether to raise. Yet in the face of this we are proposing to spend \$35,000,000 on war.

The German Menace Bugaboo

"What is the reason," asked the preacher, "for this outburst of the military spirit? The German menace is the first reason which occurs to most people. Many intelligent people believe that Germany is straining every nerve to build up a navy strong enough to swoop down on Great Britain, blot out the British navy, and build up German trade on the ruins of the British Empire. I have been quoted as saying there is no antagonism in Germany against Britain. That is not correct. A section of the German people have been made to believe that Britain is just waiting her chance to destroy their trade and cripple their power. This belief is spread by certain interests and certain journals for the sake of the personal gain derived from warlike preparations, just as is done on the other side of the Channel among the English

people. But the Germans are a peaceful people, interested in education and commerce and science. They have a better record for peace for the past generation than Great Britain herself. There would be starvation in every German industrial centre tomorrow, if Britain, her best customer, were defeated, and Germany knows it. Neither nation is bad enough nor fool enough to desire to wantonly destroy the other. The bad feeling between the two nations is due largely to the influence of professional soldiers like Lord Roberts. We had one of these professional soldiers in Canada some time ago, who wanted Canada to protect herself by a string of forts along the international boundary line and warships on the Great Lakes. What stupidity this would be! The United States would do the same and the mad race of militarism, which is the curse of Europe today, would be enacted all over again on this continent.

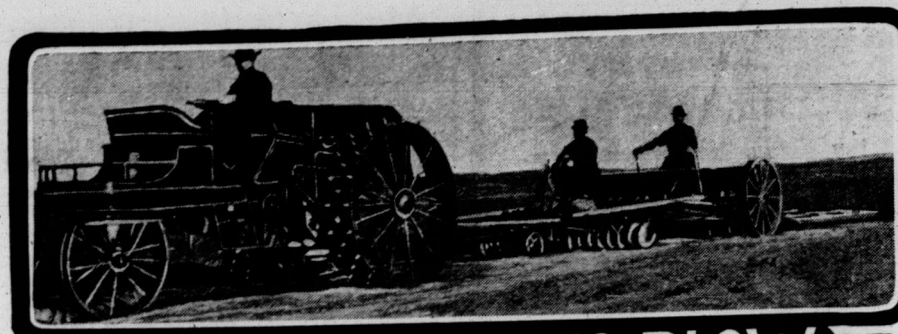
Interests Behind War Scares

"The fact that war between Germany and Britain is believed to be certain is the first step to actual war, for nothing will convince a man that he should fight so quickly as to believe that someone else is bound to fight him. If the German Chancellor makes a war-like speech in the Reichstag, it is reported in all parts of the world as a direct challenge to Great Britain. Whereas, if any German statesman makes a peaceful speech it is described as a subtle scheme to lull us to our doom. It is hard for us Canadians to understand the tremendous power of the war influence in European countries. The Krupp Works, for example, employ 75,000 people at Essen and control several papers and exert a powerful, if indirect, influence on many members of Parliament. So with the armor plate manufacturers in Britain, who are able, by a certain process, to convert steel worth \$20 or \$30 per ton into armor plate worth \$600 a ton. They sell this just as readily to the German as to the British Admiralty, which shows the extent of their patriotism. It is not actual war, however, but the preparation for war that these interests desire and whenever a war scare gets to the verge of actual danger the British and German commercial interests unite to avert the war that nobody wants.

"We constantly hear it said, even in Winnipeg, 'The best way to have peace is to prepare for war.' That is absurd. It is bad psychology, for one thing. To prepare for a fight means to expect a fight and this, in turn, usually means actual fighting. Gladstone spoke of the predisposing power of preparation for war in familiarizing the public mind with the idea of war and lighting the flames of national hatred and distrust, often leading to wars which have no justification in fact."

War Preparations Cause War

Dr. Sinclair stated that if time permitted he could prove that preparation for war was the chief cause of war. In passing he instanced the Crimean War and the Franco-Prussian War as having been caused directly by the nations involved preparing for war. As Norman Angell in "The Great Illusion" has shown, the securities of small European countries without defence of army or navy, are worth more than the securities of the Great Powers such as Great Britain or Germany. "The great financiers make no mistake," he continued, "They know where their money is safe. Just as the homestead needing to be defended from Indians would not be worth as much as one perfectly secure, so the securities of those countries which require such heavy expenditures for defence are not as valuable as those needing no defence. A nation's trade cannot be wiped out by war. People will need food and clothes as much after being conquered as before, and the only way to destroy trade would be to slit the throats of the conquered people.



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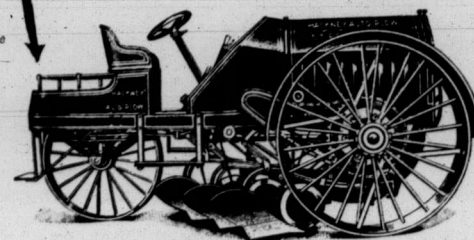
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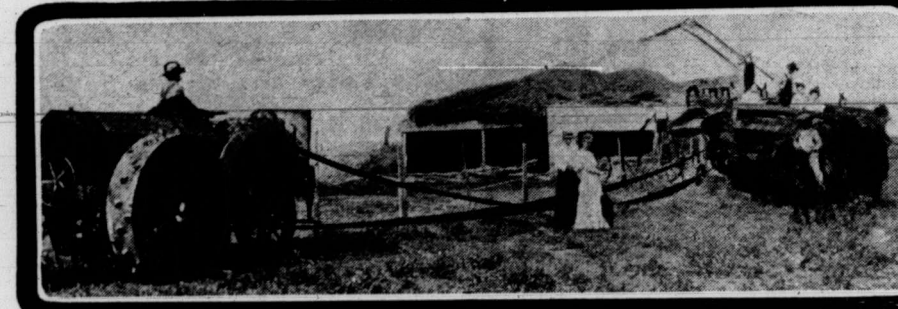
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"Another argument often used in support of armament is that a police force is needed among the nations as much as within a given country. That is true, but what is the function of a

policeman in our civilized states? He does not settle any disputes that arise. His duty is simply to take the disputants to court where a judge decides the issue. In the same way the powers

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