
HISTORICAL SKETCH OF A GREAT NEWSPAPER

gent of 1,000 would go at once—despite the Premier's initial statement that Parliament would first have to be called and the publicly expressed objections of Mr. Tarte, his Minister of Public Works.

The *Star* then took up the question of paying the expenses of these and other troops who might go to the front. They should, if declared, be equipped and despatched and maintained at the expense of Canada and, on the thirteenth, editorially described the Government as "Cowards in Council" for not taking decisive action along this line. Its general position was stated on the sixteenth: "Canada is now and long has been big enough and strong enough to bear her share of the entire responsibilities of the Empire." Meanwhile great public interest had been felt in the statement that a friend of Sir C. Tupper had volunteered to insure the lives of the troops. The name was not made known and it only transpired years afterwards that Mr. Hugh Graham was the donour of the large sum of money which must have been required for premiums. On October 14, the Opposition Leader wrote to Sir Wilfrid Laurier confirming his previous telegram and added: "The offer of the gentleman to whom I have referred in my telegram, and whose means are ample for the purpose, to provide an insurance to the extent of one million dollars to meet any casualties that may occur will greatly lessen the expenditure involved on the part of the Dominion."

The policy of prompt, efficient and ample aid to the Empire in the time of war or stress was maintained throughout the South-African struggle while a Children's Patriotic Fund was also established to aid the families of British soldiers killed or injured in the war. To this 150,000 children subscribed through the columns of the *Star*. Incidentally, the whole matter put this Montreal journal in a very clear light as having national influence, as being more than a local or provincial paper, as being, in reality, an Imperial factor. During the following decade this policy was developed along lines of closer Imperial unity in Council and commerce, in tariffs and transportation, in naval and military organization, in cable systems and press