

THE HERALD

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The Naval Debate.

As will be seen elsewhere in this issue, the debate on the naval aid resolution in the Federal House of Commons came to a close on Thursday night of last week. The amendment of the Leader of the Opposition and several other amendments were voted down and Premier Borden's resolution was carried by a large majority.

The debate had occupied a great amount of the time of Parliament and was spun out by the Opposition, evidently with a view to obstructing the Government business. That at least, is what it looked like on its face. For the last week or two of the debate the talking was all done by members of the Opposition; as the Government refrained from taking any further part in discussing a question which they considered had been sufficiently argued from every point of view.

Towards the closing days of the debate, reports began to appear in the newspapers of an evident attempt made in London to prejudice the Government's case over there. Extracts were quoted in some papers in Canada from certain English journals indicating a disposition on the part of some Liberal members of the Imperial Parliament to exert all possible pressure to unite the Liberals of England with those of Canada against the proposals of Premier Borden. This was evidently a trick worked for the purpose of creating, if possible, some uneasiness in Canada. Quite apropos the name of Mr. W. S. Fielding, Finance Minister of Canada in the Laurier Government, was connected with this apparent conspiracy. He left Canada for London about the time the naval debate began in the House of Commons. It may have been the hope of making a little political capital in this way that caused the Opposition to drag out the debate to such lengths. Mr. Fielding's pilgrimage to London in the hope of injuring Canada, eventuated as disastrously to himself and his friends as his former pilgrimage to Washington, with a similar object in view.

The Opposition might have been disposed to drag out the debate still longer, were it not for one or two things that happened in the early part of last week. In the first place, the Government determined to keep the obstructers at work night and day till the division would be reached. Again Col. McLean, Liberal member from New Brunswick, broke away from party trammels and made a strong speech in favor of Premier Borden's resolution, and declared his intention of voting for it. No doubt this disconcerted the Liberals. They did not know but other Liberals were ready to follow the gallant Colonel's example and vote against the party. Under such circumstances the most prudent course would be to close the discussion as quickly as possible. This at all events was done, on Thursday night, as above stated. It is our opinion that the course pursued by the Opposition, on this question, will not gain any credit for them, at home or abroad.

The South Pole Expedition

Within the past week, the newspapers in England and America have contained lengthy accounts from Lyttelton, New Zealand, of the death of the intrepid Captain R. F. Scott of the South Pole expedition and four of his comrades. The narration is most pathetic, as it details from Captain Scott's own diary the many difficulties and the tragic death of these brave and devoted men, who sacrificed themselves in the cause of discovery and scientific knowledge. A tinge of greater sadness and deeper pathos is now added to the tale by hints appearing in the press that the lives of the explorers might have been saved had the rescue party been more expeditious, or had greater providence been exercised in supplying larger stores of fuel and provisions. Of course these are more or less conjectures; but there is a painful possibility that some one has blundered.

The discovery of the dead bodies of Captain Scott, Dr. Wilson and Lieutenant H. R. Powers was made in a snow enveloped tent, on November 10th, 1912. The bodies of Petty Officer Edgar Evans and Captain Oates, who had died some time before the others, were some distance from this tent, in the direction of the Pole.

Commander Evans, second in command of the expedition, head of the rescue party, parted with Captain Scott and his four companions on January 4th, 1912, at latitude 87 degrees 35 minutes. From Scott's diary, found with his body, all subsequent intelligence of the explorers is gained. This shows that Scott reached the Pole, latitude 90, on January 17th. Several days were spent there and then the return journey was commenced. Difficulties beset them all the way and progress was slow. Edgar Evans and Oates died before Scott's last halt in the tent where the dead bodies of himself, Dr. Wilson and Lieut. Powers were found. The deaths of the three last named occurred about March 29, 1912. It is a sad and pathetic story; but the explorers have added their names to the scroll of fame, and their sacrifices in the cause of scientific knowledge will be of much value to future generations.

Lenten Sermon.—The second of the Lenten Sermons in St. Dunstan's Cathedral was preached by Rev. Dr. McLellan on Sunday evening last. His subject was divine faith, and his text was from verse 3 of the cap. XVII of the Gospel of St. John: "And this is life everlasting; that they may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou has sent." The Rev. preacher developed his theme in a learned, eloquent and admirable discourse. He began by quoting the pronouncement of the Vatican Council, regarding the two orders of knowledge, natural reason and divine faith. These two differed as to principle and object. One deals with objects of the natural order and discernible by the natural faculties; and the other with mysteries hidden in God. The Rev. preacher then dealt in an able manner with the motives of credibility in the realm of natural reason, as well as in the acceptance of mysteries which we cannot comprehend. There are mysteries in nature around us all the time; we cannot comprehend them; yet we must accept them. In the case of the divine mysteries, we have the best possible motives of credibility for them; we have divine revelation; the unerring word of God; the Scriptures of the Old and New

Testament. Belief in these incomprehensible mysteries is saving faith. This divine faith is a free gift of God infused into our souls through His divine grace. We who possess this gift of divine faith should be particular to live a life corresponding therewith, and thus merit the eternal happiness of Heaven.

The London Daily Telegraph declares that certain Liberals in Great Britain are working in co-operation with Hon W. S. Fielding to discredit the Canadian Government's naval propositions. The thing may be true. There are foolish as well as wise members of the British Liberal party. They would be very foolish ones, however, who would venture to go against the declarations of the Government of Great Britain for the purpose of hurting the Government of Canada and helping its opponents in this country. The beginning of that sort of business would make impossible anything in the way of co-operation to advance common interests by the United Kingdom and the Colonies; and every public man in Great Britain big enough to be a minister should see that this would be so and discourage the blunders.—Montreal Gazette.

Canadian women, in the West as well as in the East, have been unmoved by recent appeals from one of the British suffragette leaders who attempted to reconcile them to the methods of militant suffragism and to stir them up to imitate those methods. The failure of Miss Wylie's mission speaks volumes for the self respect, the prudence and the saving common sense of Canadian women.—Hamilton Herald.

If the Privy Council decision in the A. & G. W. case is acceptable to the Government it should mean the prompt resignation of Hon. C. W. Cross, the attorney general, because it would be a condemnation of his former action. If the decision be regarded as against the Province, it should involve the prompt resignation of Hon. A. L. Sifton. That both gentlemen should remain in the same Government after this would be an anomaly.—Calgary Herald.

The visitor was examining the class. "Can any little boy or girl here tell me what a fish net is made of?" he kindly inquired. "A lot of little holes tied together with strings," smiled the never-failing "bright boy."—Buffalo Commercial.

The Washington Bureau puts the value of United States wheat exports for 1912 at \$59,000,000 as against \$20,000,000 in 1911. This illustrates the condition of the large and glorious market in the United States for Canadian wheat.—Vancouver News-Advertiser.

Mixed farming is pointed to as the hope of the Canadian west. This, we wish to point out, is exactly what the west has been indulging in, farming a little and sub-dividing the rest for sale to the eastern tenderfoot. And it's been a great thing for the west—so far.—Toronto Star.

Newfoundland's new governor, Walter Davison, C. M. C., assumed the reins of authority in the colony today, succeeding Sir Ralph Champey Williams. A cordial reception was accorded the new executive by other members of the government. Governor Davison comes here after eight years' service as governor of the Fecyhallos Islands, in the Indian Ocean.

Latest information is to the effect that the five Dreadnoughts to be provided for in the forthcoming British Estimates, will displace about 27,000 or 28,000 tons and burn oil fuel alone in their furnaces. They will steam twenty-five knots an hour. It is said to be probable that they will be armed with eight 16 1/2 inch guns, each firing a 2 200 lb. shell. It has not yet been definitely decided to adopt 16 1/2 inch guns, and if they are not used, the armament will consist of 15 inch weapons capable of firing a shell of 1,800 lbs.—Victoria Colonist.

Federal Parliament.

Naval Debate Ended.

Big Government Majority.

Ottawa, Feb. 18.—The scene in the House of Commons tonight when the first division bell rang will take its place in history. The order "call in the members," was given by Speaker Sproule at ten minutes after ten and the VerVelle amendment to the government naval resolution, demanding a referendum on the naval proposal was put to the vote. It was defeated on a division of 75 yeas and 122 nays. The Conservative ranks remained unbroken while the discomfited Liberals saw Col. Hugh McLean of Queens Sunbury vote with the government. The Laurier amendment calling for the expenditure of thirty five millions on two Canadian fleet units was defeated on exactly the same vote. Sir Wilfrid Laurier would have been content to have his amendment formally declared lost on the same division but others of his party called for a vote.

MANY AMENDMENTS.

On the main motion being put for the second reading of the naval resolution, a third amendment was introduced, this time by A. A. Mondon of Yamaska, Conservative, as follows:

"This House, while prepared to adopt protective measures for the protection of the territory of Canada, declines to concur in the said resolution, because it contains provisions tending to impose upon Canada who has no voice in Imperial affairs, a share in the external responsibilities and naval defense of the Empire outside of Canadian territory, the only portion of the Empire over which the Canadian people exercise any political or constitutional authority."

This was declared out of order and fell to the ground. Then Mr. Guibault of Joliette moved a fourth amendment to add to the resolution clauses repealing the naval service act of 1910 and making the Borden policy contingent upon a favorable vote on a plebiscite. This also was ruled out of order.

CLEAR MAJORITY OF 32.

Then, at 12:30 in the morning, the main resolution was passed on a division by a majority of 32. Then Liberals and Nationalists joined hands, Sir Wilfrid Laurier's new allies numbering seven. The night was full of incident, in anticipation of which throngs of sightseers had found their way to parliament hall and packed the galleries of the house. The debate had dragged itself through the afternoon and had been going for an hour after eight o'clock when the opposition leader got up to give it a farewell contribution. Accepting the leadership of Alphonse VerVelle for the time being, he announced his approval of the referendum amendment, insisted that the government was pledged to the same course before the people, and urged that the pledge should be kept. Until a very short time before six o'clock the proceedings were extremely interesting. J. E. Marcell of Bagot and Joseph Demers of St. Johns and VerVelle spoke in French for a couple of hours. The government proposals were reactionary and retrograde; the Liberal proposals were framed with wisdom and foresight. A local fleet, and all the vessels to be built in Canada, such were their demands. In a very brief speech Paul Lamsreche of Yamaska, stated his position. He was opposed to all the propositions, and said that "before the debate goes very far people who believe sincerely that there should be an appeal to the people, shall have an opportunity to vote on another amendment."

In the evening Mr. Law of Yarmouth spoke. Mr. Law is the Liberal member who held the picnic

at Yarmouth which the unfortunate Niobe was compelled to attend, and in returning from which she went ashore. In the course of his speech he adverted to this sad occasion. He had no apology to make for having asked for the Niobe's attendance at the picnic. He resented the statement that the warship had grounded in Yarmouth Harbor. He was sorry for the accident, but the accident did not occur in Yarmouth. "While the vessel lay in Yarmouth she lay there," he said with intense solemnity. The house was not a bit solemn. It bowed with laughter. She lay there in safety while she was there," Mr. Law said, trying again, and again the house laughed. Mr. Warnock of McLeod made the standard liberal speech, as current outside of Quebec.

SIR WILFRID HEARD.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier rose unexpectedly at 9:30 o'clock. A new element had been introduced. The VerVelle amendment applied alike to his amendment and to the Borden resolution. That was Mr. VerVelle's view. The Government could not refuse to pass the VerVelle amendment; it was bound by its pledge. The navy question had been foreshadowed in the first militia act passed in 1868. In 1902, he, and his colleagues at the Imperial Conference had expressed their intention of creating a naval service. He then referred to the resolution of 1909. He had not thought that an idea which had been before the Canadian people so long needed consultation. Mr. Borden had declared that any such measure should be submitted to the people. In November, 1910, Mr. Monk had moved an amendment to the address demanding a plebiscite on the whole question of armaments, and Mr. Borden moved an amendment to the amendment approving the demand for a consultation of the people to the question of the navy. In the end Mr. Borden had voted with Mr. Monk. The election had followed; Mr. Borden had been pledged to a consultation of the people. That was the policy which the Canadian people had approved. How could the government refuse Mr. VerVelle's amendment? He accepted his defeat, there was nothing to do but carry out the wishes of the people.

CREERS FOR MR. BORDEN.

Mr. Borden rose amid tremendous cheering from his followers. He thanked Sir Wilfrid Laurier for his lecture on the extreme desirability of public men fulfilling their pledges. They appreciate such a lecture more from Sir Wilfrid Laurier than from any other source. Mr. Borden made some further reference to the review of the leader of the opposition in this respect, and noted that he had accepted the leadership of Mr. VerVelle, and admitted that his own resolution should have had some such clause in it. In the speech from which Sir Wilfrid Laurier had quoted, Mr. Borden went on, he had declared that he would carry out the very policy which he had adopted. He had said that if in power he would consult the admiralty, and if that consultation established need he would come to parliament and ask for it to take action. Sir Wilfrid Laurier when forming a permanent policy through parliament had refused to consult the people. On Feb. 8th, 1910, he had moved a resolution, Mr. Borden went on, which declared that such a resolution as that before the house need not be referred to a plebiscite. It had demanded the submission of any permanent policy to the people, but had called for an instant gift of two dreadnoughts. The course the government was proposing was exactly in accordance with his resolution of Feb. 1910, and Nov. 1910.

A FORWARD STEP.

"So far as we are concerned we believe that the expenditure of this sum of money in accordance with the resolution is a step which the people of Canada are called upon to take as a token of their self-respect and is proof that they are determined that the ties which unite them to the 'British empire shall not be broken.'" Mr. Borden then turned to Sir Wilfrid Laurier's amendment. It was a proposal to spend \$35,000,000 on a Canadian navy, to be built in this country. Later, in the consultation of the proposals of the government, he would be able to lay before the house some information as to building in Canada which would show what such a proposition would mean in delay. Those who talked so glibly of building up shipyards and a navy organization were not speaking by the book. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's proposal would mean the indefinite postponement of the navy question. (Continued on third page.)

Moore & McLeod. 119-121 Queen Street. Charlottetown, P. E. I. REMNANT SALE! IS NOW ON. The Great Annual Clearance of Remnants—odd lots, broken sizes, and everything of the like—is in full swing now. Look for Remnants in every corner of the store, you will find specials in every department. IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN IN COME—EARLIER THE BETTER. Sale of Wall Paper Remnants. This Annual Sale of Remnants and "Room Lots" is one that interests every house owner and every house occupier in reach of this store's service. It just means that all the odd lines and small lots left from a season's selling are put into room lots—are offered you at half price and less. The first comers have best choosing.

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A bad fire occurred at Head St. Peter's Bay on Sunday night, 9th inst., by which the residence of Mr. Charles Vandervort was burned down. All that was saved was an organ, a sewing machine and a stove. All the furniture, clothing, 200 bushels potatoes and \$100 in cash were lost. No insurance.