

The Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1912.

MR. WOODROW WILSON AND RECIPROCITY.

Another deadly blow at Reciprocity, a vindication of the action of the Canadian people in defeating the pact, has been delivered by Mr. Woodrow Wilson, Democratic candidate for the Presidency of the United States. Reciprocity organs in this country had hopes of Mr. Wilson, President Taft, for the Republicans, had proved a bitter disappointment on several occasions, notably in his "adjunct" letter, when he expressed the opinion that the argument made in Canada against the Agreement was "a good one." Much was expected from the Democratic candidate whose chances of election to the Presidency are very bright. Mr. Wilson's opportunity came last Saturday at New Haven, Conn. Discussing the Reciprocity Agreement from the Canadian standpoint, he condemned it quite as effectively as Mr. Taft. He said:

"I was very much interested in some of the reasons given by our friends across the Canadian border for being so shy about the Reciprocity arrangements. They said, 'We were not sure where these arrangements will lead, and we don't care to associate too closely with the economic conditions of the United States until those conditions are as modern as ours.'"

"When I presented this and asked for particulars I HAD TO RETIRE FROM THE DEBATE, BECAUSE I FOUND THAT THEY HAD ADJUSTED THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO CONDITIONS WHICH WE HAD NOT YET FOUND A WAY TO MEET IN THE UNITED STATES."

Mr. Wilson frankly admits that when he came to investigate he found Canada's economic development superior to the economic conditions prevalent in the United States. It is not difficult to conjecture some of the answers which he would receive to his enquiries. He would discover that his "friends across the Canadian border" had been governed for many years under a National Policy of moderate protection which conserved the natural products of the country and encouraged and safeguarded the industries. He would find the Dominion was not bound hand and foot by combines and trusts. He would learn that Canada had a fixed and unalterable belief in the principle of developing her trade in East and West channels and had built her lines of transportation with that end in view, to supply all her home markets and strengthen her connection with the greatest market in the world, the Mother Country. Even an echo of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's memorable words, before he fell from grace, might have come to him: "I will never rest until every pound of Canadian freight is carried through Canadian channels to Canadian ports."

These things would tend to convince a man of Mr. Wilson's type, a reasoner and a thinker, that Canada had adjusted her economic development to conditions they had not yet found a way to meet in the United States. Reciprocity was condemned and Mr. Wilson freely acknowledged that Canada was right. His resentment is gone. He retires from the debate.

It is worth noting that no candidate for the Presidency is advocating Reciprocity. Mr. Roosevelt, an extreme of his campaign. One section of Congress has voted to repeal the offer. The Liberal press of this country is trying vainly to revive interest in an agreement which is a dead and buried issue in the United States.

THE NAVAL CRISIS: CANADIAN INTERVENTION.

"The Naval Crisis: Canadian Intervention," is the title of an article by Rt. Hon. F. E. Smith, K.C., M.P., in recent issue of the Outlook. It affords an instructive insight to the opinions held by the Unionist party in Great Britain on the question of Naval defence. Mr. Smith is one of the leading speakers in the House of Commons on the Opposition side and bears a high reputation as a man of letters. Being closely in touch with the situation his views will carry weight. It is evident that he is not entirely satisfied with the Asquith Government's naval policy, but he ventures no harsh criticism. Mr. Smith rather suggests that the Opposition themselves have been somewhat at fault. His tribute to Canada is noteworthy. He foresees that her example will be followed by other parts of the Empire and emphasizes the importance of all contributions being in addition to and not in substitution for the Admiralty's programme. An extract from the article follows:

"When the Unionist party left office the two Power standard was fully maintained, our fleets held the seas of the world, and the most timid citizen could find no ground for apprehension as to the maritime strength of the country. But alas, since then we have witnessed, ever-growing, swiftly, silently, and relentlessly, a fleet avowedly built to menace ours, belonging to the strongest military nation in the world, and compassing England with an atmosphere of peril more serious than we have breathed since the Napoleonic wars."

"Considerable arguments might be advanced to show that the Opposition in the last six years have not fully discharged their responsibilities. Only twice during that period has the nation become alarmed, and in each case because a Liberal Minister found it necessary to take the House of Commons fully into his confidence in order to obtain the necessary support from his followers in the House of Commons. We could afford to look at the position with greater equanimity if England were a military nation as strong as Germany, though even then our insular position and consequent dependence on supplies from abroad would widely distinguish the two cases."

"The position now is, and it cannot be too widely made known, that the pressure of the German menace has already compelled us to evacuate every sea but the Mediterranean in order to concentrate our forces in the German Ocean; that we shall in three years only have a superiority of four at most in those waters of Dreadnoughts and super-Dreadnoughts; and that ex hypothesi Germany will be the attacking power, able to choose her own moment, able to fling upon us this mighty Armada at a moment which suits her best and us worst. Our ships, when the crisis comes, may be all ready or they may not. The German ships will not arise. The coincidence of two disabled Dreadnoughts in our fleet might change the history of the world and destroy the independence of the English people. It ought not to be a question of

money, and it is not a question of money. The nation is enormously rich, and it appeared to us on this issue with the impressive truth it will find any money which a Minister in whom it has confidence thinks it right to ask."

"Mr. Churchill is in the difficult position that he evidently evacuated the Mediterranean in order to achieve additional security in the German Ocean; otherwise it would have been plainly wrong for the mistress of Egypt and India to evacuate it at all. If he required his Mediterranean ships for the purpose of giving him the security which satisfied him in the North Sea, the withdrawal from the North Sea to the Mediterranean of even a stronger force, in order to placate public opinion, must of necessity mean that we have a less efficient fleet so short a time ago. Mr. Churchill thought requisite so short a time ago. All may go well in the North Sea. It is even probable that all will go well there; but where we stake so much and Germany relatively so little, we cannot stand upon 'may's' and 'probables.'"

"Many sane and pacific observers have reached the melancholy conclusion, which is supported by all human experience, that two Great Powers cannot for many years make preparations for one another's destruction without a spark, at some unexpected moment, lighting the magazine. If this view be well founded it is the next few years, and the next few years only, that will count. The future of the British Empire for all time may depend, and probably does depend, upon the adequacy of our preparations during those few years. It matters comparatively little if we build too many ships; it is the grave of European freedom, the ruin and the end of the Empire, if we build too few."

"The one bright spot in so dark a sky is found in the apparent intention of Canada to step into the field and help to redress the maritime balance of the old world. The entry of Canada upon the scene has awakened a thrill of emotion in the mind of every man who believes in the Empire as a vital organism, and its significance will hardly be overlooked by those whose efforts are involving us in an expenditure so appalling. The example of Canada was itself preceded by the splendid patriotism of New Zealand, and is not unlikely to be followed by similar contributions from other parts of the Empire; but if Canadians are wise they will reluctantly insist that everything they give us shall be additional upon, and not in substitution for, the uttermost exertions which we had already ourselves resolved to make."

"We do not ask Canada to relieve us of our primary obligation to make adequate provision for our own maritime defence. If a convulsion of Nature wiped Canada from the map of the world tomorrow we should not require a single 'Dreadnought' the less. We ask Canada by an act of act of high Imperial generosity to relieve us of no obligation, but to add to a security which is our own indefeasible duty to make complete."

Public men in Great Britain are under no delusion as to the reality of the German menace. The tenor of Mr. Smith's article shows that he is no exception to the rule. He presents a strong argument when he states that whatever Canada may do her contribution should be a supplement to and not a reduction of the British Fleet. This view was also taken by the Imperial Maritime League whose members interviewed Mr. Hazen in London. It may safely be recorded that the Borden Government are of the same opinion. Mr. Hazen made this point clear in his reply to the delegation. "It has been suggested," he said, "that in the event of Canada contributing to the British Navy that contribution should not be in reduction of what Great Britain should do, but should be a contribution to supplement what she did. In that I entirely concur, and I believe the Government of Canada are in entire concurrence, and I may say that that is the view which we have taken here during the deliberations, and which we have tried to put before the proper authorities."

Current Comment

A Problem to be Faced.

(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)

The trouble in Ulster is not the work of Sir Edward Carson and a few public men. These do not inspire Ulster. Ulster inspires them. They would be powerful less if they had not behind them the half million men for whom they speak. If the Government proposes to indict any person it must indict the whole of Ulster. If Carson and Law and Craig, or Bishop David have spoken treason so will these hundreds of thousands of Ulster. The Ulster movement is not the work of a few men. It is the work of a long and noble tradition. The Ulster Ministry survive long enough to reach the point of declaring the Home Rule Bill to be law it must face the question: What is to be done with these Covenanters?

Ulster in Earnest.

(Montreal Gazette.)

The great Ulster Day services at Belfast began with the singing of the psalm "O God Our Help in Ages Past," and closed with the petition "God Save the King." There were no signs of factional politics in what the leaders of the Ulster movement are doing and saying. Those who are following are in earnest. When tens of thousands of strong men voluntarily assemble themselves to forward what they regard as a great public purpose necessary to their liberty, and begin proceedings with prayer, there is likely to be trouble unless they have their way. Ireland and England have need of the services of their wisest men at this juncture.

Brightening Up the Senate.

(Calgary Herald.)

The West will soon be decorated with a few more Senators. That will be all right; why shouldn't it? Does the Liberal party consider it has the patents for the manufacture of these interesting members of society. The Conservative party couldn't be expected to go on for ever with a bunch of Liberal soundings in the second chamber. A little new blood will brighten the Senate up immensely.

His Own Party Will Tire of It.

(Winnipeg Telegram.)

The cold cruel fact is that nobody cares a button about Laurier's feelings either in defeat or victory. If he goes on insisting that he triumphs in defeat Canada is quite willing to give him all of that variety of triumph he craves to enjoy. But his own party will get very tired of that kind of sing song.

It Would Have a Fit.

(Victoria Colonist.)

It is just a little annoying to pick up a paper as well informed as the Halifax Chronicle usually is and read that the Forestry Convention was held in Vancouver. What would our contemporary think it a Victoria paper should lay the venue of some Halifax event in St. John?

More in Season.

(Ottawa Journal.)

As a more reasonable villain, the coal man has now got the ice man crowded off the stage.

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(Aitchison Globe.)

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WIRELESS PRESIDENT OBJECTIONS TO THE PANAMA BILL

Former Resident of New Brunswick Sends Account of One American's Protest—Attracts Wide Interest

A native of Queens County, N. B., D. P. Leonard, who is now living at Islip, Long Island, U. S. A. sent The Standard the following clipping from the Brooklyn Times:

Islip, L. I., Sept. 5.—John C. Doxsee, President of the Deep Sea Fish Company, a native of Islip, and one of the most substantial, sound business men of the village, yesterday sent the following telegram to President Taft with a duplicate to the British Ambassador at Washington, D. C.:

"You must not allow this country to break its treaty obligations. We can afford to build the Panama Canal, maintain it at our own expense, and throw it open and free to everybody, and a dozen more canals just like, but we cannot afford to break our promise to any nation. Stand for the right because it is right. Call upon Congress to enact, in special session, if necessary, such legislation as will prove to all the nations of the world that this country will keep sacred and inviolable all its treaty obligations."

"To do less would be a crime, and would set the cause of arbitration back a hundred years. You, Mr. President, who deserve credit for taking an advanced position on the cause of arbitration, must see it that this question is settled on the basis of right and justice to all, and on that basis alone according to our treaty obligations. When the situation becomes understood the aroused Christian sentiment in this country will not permit the President nor Congress, nor any other power, to cause this country to break in any way its solemn treaty obligations."

(Signed) "JOHN C. DOXSEE, 'ISLIP, N. Y.'"

Mr. Leonard writes that Mr. Doxsee's telegram has been taken up by religious papers in many parts of the country, and that the author is receiving many letters of congratulation for his efforts in a good cause. "Having lived in the United States twenty-five years, and heard the sentiments in general expressed regarding England and her colonies, I can well understand how to appreciate such sentiments as are expressed by Mr. Doxsee," adds Mr. Leonard.

LATE SHIPPING.

Montreal, Oct. 1.—Ard, strmr Sicilian, London.

Plymouth, Oct. 1.—Ard, strmr Manchester Shipper, Manchester; Monmouth, Bristol and Liverpool.

Sid, strmr Corinthian, Havre and London.

Quebec, Oct. 1.—Ard, Lake Champlain, Liverpool; Mount Temple, London and Antwerp; Langan, Sydney.

Arrived Oct. 1.
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Norfolk—Va—Schrs Eleanor A. Percy, Boston; Wyoming, do.

Sailed Oct. 1.
New York—Schrs William B. Marvel, Fort Williams, N. B.; Exilda, do; Edna, Annapolis, N. S.; Roma, St. John, N. B.

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