

The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 5, 1910.

THE PREMIER AND PROTECTION.

"Sir Wilfrid," says the Evening Times, "has no quarrel with free trade, but everybody, including the grain growers, knows that free trade is at present out of the question." No one is seeking to quarrel with the Premier for speaking in the language of the protectionist, but how does the Times reconcile his old suggestion "to establish free trade as it is in England," with his present attitude? Today the prime minister declares that there must be careful regard for "vested interests," and that even agricultural implements cannot be admitted free of duty so long as the United States maintains duties on any of the materials which enter into their construction. Fifteen or twenty years ago these considerations were treated by the whole Liberal party as base subterfuge. Sir Wilfrid Laurier today is speaking the language of the Conservative campaign literature of 1878, and 1883, and 1891, and 1896.

The attitude of the Prime Minister towards reciprocity with the United States is, likewise, that of the protectionist. He tells us there are to be no more pilgrimages to Washington. He intimates that the disposition of the United States politicians is to look after Number One, and that that must be the disposition of Canada. He is anxious to secure the market across the border for the Canadian people, but not at the sacrifice of Canadian industries and Canadian self-respect. This is sound Canadianism and sound fiscal policy, but it is exactly what Conservatives said in their day of power, and exactly the language at which the Liberal press used to wax satirical and angry.

It is well to have the position the Liberal government now occupies well defined. The organized hypocrisy by which the free trade remnant has been inflated against the Conservative leaders and in favor of the government should be ended. It may be difficult for those who desire a reduction of duties and who look towards ultimate free trade to choose between the two parties. There is this, however, to be said for Conservatives. They established protection in Canada, and have never professed to be anything but protectionists. The Liberal politicians, when the opportunity came, seized the protectionist policy of their opponents, but continue to masquerade as free traders. The Conservative party proclaims "adequate protection." The Liberal party practices "adequate protection."

In the election of two years ago thousands of farmers were induced to vote for the government in answer to the free trade appeals of Liberal organs and Liberal candidates. At the same time the government had the confidence of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and was in active alliance with many of the most stalwart protectionists in the country. It held the votes of protectionists through private understanding. It secured the votes of free traders by a pretended devotion to principles which the party abandoned many years ago.

It is folly for Sir Wilfrid Laurier to assert that his government has effected any material change in the fiscal system. The tariff is very much as he found it. His government is as protectionist as that which it succeeded. He has no claim to the votes of free traders and no more title to the confidence of western farmers than his opponents whose policy he has taken over and whose principles he has practised throughout his whole term of office.

GREAT BRITAIN'S NAVAL SECURITY.

There was recently a debate in the English House of Commons on naval matters, initiated by a motion by Mr. Dillon, Nationalist, to reduce the total naval vote by two million pounds, which, the Manitoba Free Press points out, was marked by several notable incidents. One was Mr. Asquith's disclaimer that Great Britain had any reason for resentment against Germany because of the latter's naval programme, or that on the other hand Great Britain's increase in naval armament indicated hostility to Germany. Mr. Asquith's language on this point was in these terms:—

"There is another point, a very important point, which is raised by my hon. friend (Mr. Dillon), in the speech which he has just made, and which I agree with him is a matter of deep regret. I mean that the increase in our naval expenditure should have been associated, in so far as it has been associated, with the notion that we are in any sense hostile to or entertain hostile designs against the friendly nation of Germany. Nothing is farther from the truth. I very much regret that the idea should exist.

"I can say with the most perfect sincerity that our relations with Germany have been, and at this moment are, of the most cordial character. I look forward to increasing warmth and fervor and intimacy in those relations year by year. I welcome, as every man on both sides with any sense of true patriotism welcomes, all the various agencies and movements by which the two peoples are getting more and more to understand each other. I do not believe the German government would in the least subscribe to the view which has been imputed to the German nation in the article just quoted, that our naval preparations are directed against them, any more than I subscribe to the view that the German naval preparations are directed against us.

"Germany has her own policy to pursue, her own interests to safeguard. She is a great world Power; she has outlying dependencies; she is constantly sending her sons and daughters to the uttermost parts of the earth; her trade is increasing everywhere. The German statesmen and people honestly and legitimately

believe—and it is not with us a question whether the manner in which they express and carry out their belief is politic and wise; that is a matter for them—they believe they cannot maintain their position as a great world Power, with the numerous and constantly increasing interests they are bound to defend in every quarter of the globe, unless they increase their navy. That is the German position.

"What is our position? Our position is this. We are responsible not so much for looking after an increasing and newly developing Empire as we are responsible for the defence and security of an Empire which already exists. We should be false to the trust which the nation and Empire have reposed in this House and in the government of the day unless we maintained that ample margin of security against all probable or even possible risks which is the only insurance which a nation such as ours can possess—an insular country with 40 millions of people dependent on foreign supplies of food and raw material, and responsible for the protection and defence of dependencies and dominions in every quarter of the globe.

"I very much regret that the name of Germany has been so frequently introduced into this debate as it has. It would be exactly the same thing if this increase of naval development which has taken place during the last few years in Germany had taken place in France, between which country and ourselves most intimate ties of friendship and even affection exist. What we must do if we are to discharge the trust of which I spoke a few moments ago is to look at the shipbuilding programme of the world, take into account the possible risk, and never sacrifice that margin of safety by which alone the security of our trade and our Empire can be assured.

"It is in no sense from hostility to Germany that we have had to look at German shipbuilding as being to some extent, to a very large extent of late years, the governing factor in the problem of the margin which has to be secured."

Still more notable were the admissions of both Mr. Asquith and Mr. Balfour that the estimates made by them in their parliamentary deliveries of March, 1909, of the additions to be made by Germany to her fleet had been far wide of the mark. Mr. Balfour then estimated that by April 1912, the German Dreadnoughts would number 21—and possibly 25—against the British 20. Mr. Asquith's estimate was 17 German Dreadnoughts by April 1912. In his late speech, Mr. Asquith admitted that in April 1912 Germany would have only 13 Dreadnoughts.

This, it might be said, was the figure given out by the German authorities at the time of the naval scare in England; but at that time it was regarded as a mere bluff to cover up an intended acceleration of naval construction. Time has vindicated the German statement, and has shown that the foundation upon which the portentous naval scare of March and April, 1909, was built was sheer suspicion. That scare found its most popular expression in the slogan "Eicht, and we won't wait" with the result that the government, under pressure, accelerated its naval programme by four extra Dreadnoughts.

In view of the national and imperial interests at stake, however, it can not be said that, even with the increase due to the scare, the British preponderance in naval strength will be undone. This is Mr. Asquith's estimate of the comparative strength of the German and British navies, present and prospective:—

Ready for War.	G.B.	Germany.
Now	10	5
At the end of 1911	16	11
At April 1912	20	13
At April 1913	25	21

This comparison does not show an excessive preponderance of strength or argue an insane and reckless extravagance on the part of the British government, as Mr. Dillon claimed in his speech which brought on the naval debate. In "pre-Dreadnought" ships Great Britain has a great preponderance, and though this is a preponderance which will decrease every year as the ships lose in effectiveness, it is for the present real and effective. At the present moment, and for the immediate future, the government's programme gives an ample—but not too ample—margin of safety against all probable, or even possible, risks.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

An old age pension bill which will affect some seven millions of people, about two-fifths of the population of France, has been adopted by the French senate without a dissenting vote and will have immediate execution. All wage earners of both sexes (except railroad workers, miners and seamen on the navy reserve list) come under the provisions of the law, as do also needy small land owners, tenant farmers and farm laborers.

The bill differs from the British statute in that it compels both the pensioned and their employers to contribute to the fund, the government itself adding to it. Male pensioners are to give about two dollars a year, the women contributing about half this amount. Employers must give a sum equal to the total contributions of their employees.

Full pensions are granted to those who reach the age of sixty-five years, while a smaller pension is granted at the age of fifty-five years. The law does not interfere with the work of mutual aid and fraternal organizations.

CURRENT COMMENT

(Toronto News.)

The Canadian Pacific is doing an enormous business since the strike—almost triple, and in some cases more. The passenger service between Toronto and Montreal has more than doubled—the trains are run in two or more sections. So with the express business. A C. P. man said yesterday that they had already earned in increased business what the advance to standard wages had cost them. Mr. Hayes is the greatest friend the C. P. R. ever had. He has been "routing" everything he has had by C. P. R.

(Kingston Standard.)

Up to date Laurier on his western trip has promised public works to the value of \$70,000,000. Which reminds us of the story of the man who offered \$10,000 for the recovery of his lost bear. "But he hasn't got the money," said a friend who knew him. "I know it," said another friend; "but ain't it a good offer?"

(Calgary Herald.)

If the railway commission will not decide on lowering the price of the upper Pullman berths perhaps they will require the railway company to at least furnish the liniment needed to anoint the sore spots.

(Winnipeg Free Press.)

Among the greatest discoveries of the present day that of the remedial and curative powers of plain, everyday air must be esteemed one of the most important.

(Hamilton Spectator.)

It never fails. Have you noticed that in the Cripple case there was an Eye-Louise was the way she disguised it.

TROUBLE AHEAD

(Chicago News.)
When gentle woman goes to vote—
They say the time is coming—
As certain as that cork will float,
Or as a bill for plumbing,
She'll always vote her ticket straight,
And never, never scratch it;
For that would spoil it, sure as fate,
She'd feel she'd have to patch it.

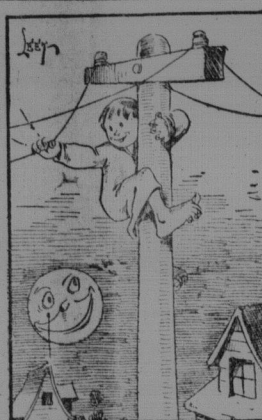
Her gloves will have to match her hat,
Her gown be tailor fitted,
And of the latest mode at that,
'Twill have to be admitted
That when fair woman goes to choose
And cast her ballot cunning,
From picture hat to dainty shoes
That voter will be stunning.

But should the tailor fail to send
The new gown as directed,
The charming dame will never lend
Her aid to the elected.
What use is woman's suffrage pray,
With which the age is humming,
If gowns upon election day
Are old and unbecoming?

THE IMPETUS OF BEAUTY
TO THE SPIRITUAL.

Beauty is the shining through of the spiritual reality, in the material forms whose truth this reality constitutes. His mind must be dull and sluggish in the extreme, and incapable of being incited to anything else, who in seeing all the beautiful objects of the sensible world, all this symmetry and great arrangement of things, and the form apparent in the stars, though so remote, is not from this view mentally agitated, and does not venerate them, as admirable productions of still more admirable causes.—Plotinus.

Then it Happened



Jimmie Jones had just finished reading about Sergt. Jasper at Ft. Moultrie.

Jimmie was a somnambulist as well. In his dreams that night he climbed the slender, quivering flagstaff; in reality he climbed the telegraph pole in front of his house. He reached forth his hand to grasp the beloved standard of his native land and cried: "It is mine."

Little Jimmie was right. It was his by about 1,000 volts.
(The End.)

A LIVELY CORPSE



Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 4.—Arthur Meacham, a Spanish war veteran, claims to be alive, while the government says that he's dead and offers to prove it by showing the tombstone it erected over his grave at Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Meacham says that during the war he was taken ill with typhoid fever, and with several others, was sent to Ft. Thomas. En route the tags with the names of Meacham and another man were changed.

When the other man died they buried Meacham, and rather the man who wore Meacham's tag.

Incidentally he wants \$135 which he says the government owes him, but the government says that it spent that much for his tombstone.

Meacham comes back with the statement that he can't eat the tombstone and the he's hungry, neither of which is denied by the government, but they cannot get over believing that he's a "dead one."

JOSH WISE SAYS:

"Jeff Horsblock says some o' those city boarders walkin' through his field in open-work stockin' shocked all his wheat—ter say nothin' o' th' harvest hands."

Keep Him Late.

(Houston Post.)
"What made you so late?"
"I met Jim."

"Well, that's no reason why you should be an hour late getting home to supper."

"I know; but I asked him how he was feeling, and the fool insisted on telling me."

Grammatical.

(Cleveland Leader.)
In Boston.
"Say, I'm a stranger in this town. Can you tell me a good place to stop at?"

"Yes, sir. Stop just before the 'at.'"

The Bath or Jail.

(Peterboro Review.)
"Good morning, madame. Have you had your weekly bath?"

This will likely be the salutation in Aurora, Ill., for the health department has ordered that anyone neglecting to bathe once a week is liable to arrest.

"I have bathed, sir."
Now, how can they tell?

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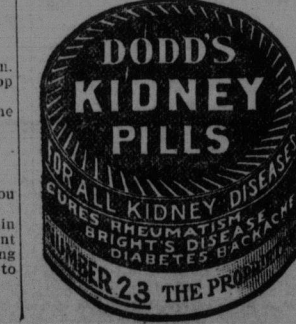
AMUSEMENTS

"Dora Thorne" Scored Great Hit At Nickel.

Miss Sadie Calhoun and her small but efficient company of associate players scored again last night in the pathetic little bit from the standard dramatic production "Dora Thorne," so well known to theatregoers. Miss Calhoun in the leading role was the broken-hearted lowly wife of the young lord in all the pathos the part demanded. Her art was clearly demonstrated in the scene where she makes up the hamper of children's clothing to hand over to the nobleman in surrendering her little ones. Mr. George Land essayed two roles, that of Dora's father and that of young Lord Earle and acted finely. Godfrey Kenney as the lawyer fulfilled his part with his accustomed professional touch. On the whole it was a fine little play, the synopsis of the preceding acts being shown on the curtain. Today the Nickel will have a new picture bill to go along with the dramatic sketch including the following films: The Edison drama "The Little Fiddler," the western story "The Flower of the Ranch," and two rich comedies "Jones Eats a Kangaroo" and "The Lady Killer." Miss Prescott in songs and the orchestra. Big matinee tomorrow.

THE HOTELS

Royal.
Miss M. League, Boston; Sarah Mackenzie, Andover, Mass; Alice Lewis, New York; Bert H. King, Patterson, N.J.; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Kopke, Boston; Rose Sandt, Miss Edith D. Atkins, Philadelphia; Miss Louise Morrison, Conn.; A. R. MacKenzie, Mrs. R. MacKenzie, Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Johnson, New York; Lillian C. Brooks, Haverhill, Mass; W. H. Curtis, Lincoln, N.H.; W. B. Brant, Boston; W. G. Boynton, Middleton, Mass; C. A. Donner, Victor Chaikin, J. D. Stein, E. Katz, New York; E. A. Pease and wife, Boston; F. B. Washburn, Worcester, Mass; Dr. Crank and wife, Miss E. Nichols, Cincinnati; Mr. and Mrs. M.



Wrist Watches

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