

The Standard



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TELEPHONE CALLS:
Business Office Main 1722
Editorial and News Main 1746

Chicago Representative:
Henry DeClerque, 707-702 Schiller Building,
New York Office.
L. Kiehn, Manager, 1 West 34th Street.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY MORNING, NOV. 11, 1910

A POINT TO BE REMEMBERED.

Upon the discussion of the naval question Senator McMillan, of Alexandria, in a letter, which appears in the Toronto Mail and Empire, throws important light. He points out that a cardinal objection to the naval scheme—an objection that was mentioned on all the platforms in Drummond and Arthabaska—is the fact that the project was pushed through parliament without even the formality of a reference to the people.

This autocratic action, it is well to bear in mind, was fought by Mr. Borden. The resolution presented to parliament by the leader of the opposition, while agreeing that any emergency action designed to give aid to the Empire could be entered upon by parliament of its own motion, asserted that a measure having permanent results, and committing the country to a new policy, ought to be endorsed by the people before being passed.

Mr. Borden's motion said: "No permanent policy should be entered upon involving large future expenditures of this character until it has been submitted to the people and has received their approval. In the meantime the immediate duty of Canada and the impending necessities of the Empire can best be discharged and met by placing without delay at the disposal of the Imperial authorities, as a free and loyal contribution, such an amount as may be sufficient to purchase or construct two battleships or armored cruisers of the latest Dreadnought type, and giving to the Admiralty full discretion to expend the said sum at such time and for such purposes of naval defence as in their judgment may best serve to increase the united strength of the Empire, and thus ensure its peace and security."

Here, as the Mail and Empire points out, we have the correct constitutional doctrine laid down. Parliament was free to come to the aid of the Empire with such assistance as would be effective. But it was not at liberty for the question had never been submitted to the people, to inaugurate a new policy which was not only new, but was, in addition, absolutely the reverse of that suggested to the country by the ruling men when last they made their appeal for support. In this phase of the case the insurgent Liberals have their strongest argument. It is a fact that these politicians make wild statements on the platform, and go to extremes in their references to Imperial defence. They have been taught to use the language they employ by a leader whose precepts they cannot forget. But when they say that a departure of this kind ought to be pronounced upon by the people before action is taken they assume a position that is in line with the best traditions of all parties, and that accords also with the doctrines of representative rule.

There is reason to believe that if the government at Ottawa had determined to make a contribution to Empire defence of the character mentioned by Mr. Borden in his resolution, the entire country would have favored its decision, and there would have been no such difficulty as that now experienced. It is the violation of the constitution and the adoption of a plan that is useless that has caused all the trouble, and that is bound to tell with increasing force against the administration as the situation is better understood. In recent years the doctrine of popular control has been persistently repudiated by the ruling party. It is time that that doctrine was reasserted, and that public men were taught that they are the servants and not the masters of the people.

EXPORT FLOUR TRADE.

British trade and navigation reports recently published contain information of value to Canadians interested in export business in flour. The Hamilton Spectator calls attention to the fact that in this particular line the Dominion is rapidly coming into her own as the chief source of supply for the home land.

Here is the statement for the nine months ended September 30th, 1910:—

	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
	1908	1909	1910.
Germany	277,050	413,000	426,300
Belgium	56,000	42,000	67,250
France	822,900	394,000	376,400
Austria-Hungary ..	322,639	77,708	69,200
United States	7,498,969	4,333,800	3,230,323
Argentina	94,410	65,300	48,500
Australia	174,400	504,200	326,000
Canada	993,228	1,282,300	1,980,586
Other Countries ..	50,630	96,603	224,860

The increase in Canadian exports of flour, it will be seen, is over 100 per cent. while the decrease of United States exports is over 120 per cent. But good as the showing is, it is not as good as it might be, and would be, if only Canadian millers would pay more attention to the peculiar local taste of the British buyer. For example, our trade commissioner at Manchester says:—"It is regrettable that this great consuming district absorbs so little. It is ascribed to the peculiar quality of Lancashire taste requires which exporters do not study, and which evidently the local millers are capable of producing."

This lesson of studying the tastes of foreign market buyers in order to build up and maintain healthy export trade, is one that Canadians seem to be too slow to learn. Certain it is that until it is learned we will not be able to take our proper place as an exporting nation. Experience shows that the Old Country buyer will have what he wants, if not from one

source, then from another. If he can get it within the Empire he is the better pleased, but he will have it to his own peculiar taste, even though he has to patronize the Empire's rivals. In fruit and dairy products we have learned the lesson and are profiting materially as a result. The sooner we come to it in other lines of export trade, the better off we shall be.

AN EXPENSIVE INVESTMENT.

Having been saved by the Laurier government from the junk heap in England, H. M. C. S. Rainbow has arrived at Esquimalt, and, with the Niobe at Halifax, is hailed by Liberal organs as inaugurating a navy designed to defend Canada's shores and commerce, and to assist in the protection of the Empire—always provided, of course, that the Canadian government approves. Mr. W. R. Plewman, writing recently in the Canadian Courier, gives some enlightening facts about these two obsolete ships. He says:

"When in England last July the writer made the trip from London to Portsmouth with the express purpose of inspecting the Rainbow. A letter from Rear Admiral Kingsmill enabled him to pass through the Admiralty Dockyard to the tidal basin where the Rainbow was secured. Earlier in the week she had been turned over to the possession of the Canadian government. Rows of submarines and torpedo boats were roped together in the vicinity, and at right angles to the Rainbow were the Barfleur and the Centurion, her old comrades on the China station. Both of them are more powerful than the Niobe, but they have been sold for a mere song to the junk-dealer, while the Rainbow, which rusticated for four years at Mother Bank, a sort of admiralty's 'home for the aged,' has blossomed out in a fresh coat of paint as the first ship of the Canadian navy. Such are the tricks of fortune!"

"Neither the Rainbow nor the Niobe could take a place in the fighting line. Each belongs to a type which is practically obsolete. Modern naval science has discarded intermediate types and developed the extremes—the all-big gun ship, to fight, and the multiple-torpedoed ship to scout and run. Some of the latest vessels are strong in both departments. The Rainbow is too slow to be a scout, and too weak to be feared by anything more powerful than a poacher. Nor can the Niobe run or face the fire of a battleship. An 850 pound shot from a 12-inch gun would pierce her as it would a pack of cards. The warship now building in England for New Zealand could sweep a whole fleet of Rainbows and Niobes before breakfast."

For this 'obsolete' old junk ship which can 'neither fight nor run' Canada paid over \$1,000,000 as the 'first ship' of a navy to 'protect' Canada from the United States, Japan, and all the pirates of the rest of the world. Judging by the result of the election in Drummond-Arthabaska, and the blow to its prestige, Sir Wilfrid himself must be inclined to think by this time that the Rainbow and Niobe have proved a rather expensive investment.

PUBLICITY PAYS.

The value of publicity in municipal affairs has again been demonstrated to Spokane, says the Spokesman-Review. The first occasion in mind was when the parents of school children protested against the secretly prepared plans for a new building for the South Central high school. The second was when a firm of dealers in fire apparatus protested against the requirements with which bids must comply.

In the first case publicity resulted in regard being shown for the judgment of fathers and the wishes of mothers, so that the new high school will probably be a better building than that originally planned. In the second case publicity to the charges of favoritism on the part of an official of the city resulted in the rejection of old bids that would have caused waste of money and in the offering of new bids whose prices are so much lower than those of the previous bids that acceptance of the lowest bid will save the city much money.

Publicity pays. It quickens the sense of responsibility in public officials. It tightens the grip of citizens on the administration of their public affairs. It encourages public officials by the expression of appreciation for faithfulness and competence. It bridges lax or unworthy public servants by its exposure of their unfitness to administer affairs.

Current Comment

(Montreal Gazette.)

The New York bricklayers have reorganized their union. In the past it was the power of the walking delegate to go upon a job, look things over, and if he saw anything of which he disapproved, to order the bricklayers to quit work at once. The walking delegates abused this privilege, and it has been established that it was utilized for grafting purposes, the contractor being informed that by the payment of a stipulated sum he would be allowed to violate some minor regulation of the union. There is to be no more of this. In the future strikes will only be ordered on the vote of the union and for good cause. The conditions were so undesirable that it is not strange that the members of the union rebelled.

(Toronto Star.)

The murder of John McNaughton the other day in New Brunswick brings to mind an aristocrat of the same name who was hanged in Ireland in 1761 for the murder of his sweetheart. The rope broke three times, a circumstance which in these days would have freed the culprit, but he declined to avail himself of it, exclaiming, "I don't want people to call me Half-hanged McNaughton."

(Montreal Gazette.)

In 1877 the defeat of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Drummond and Arthabaska presaged the defeat of the Mackenzie government. In 1910 the defeat of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's candidate in Drummond and Arthabaska may presage the defeat of the Laurier government. And the Laurier government deserves defeat, many times worse than did that of Mr. Mackenzie.

(Hamilton Herald.)

Hon. Mr. Lemieux, Canada's representative at the opening of the first parliament of the South African Union, will probably talk to the Afrikaners about the awfulness of racial strife and the beauty of racial harmony, and will be able to point his moral with illustrations drawn from Drummond and Arthabaska.

(Brooklyn Eagle.)

The Russian Duma is in session, but the satirical announcement is made that "the bill for freedom of speech and of the press will probably not be reached this year." The censor who passed this news despatch must have had a Slavic sense of humor.

(Vancouver Province.)

The government has the establishment of a standard for sausages under consideration. As a matter of public policy it is generally prudent to let sleeping dogs lie.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

The government started out to nail Bourassa to the mast, but only succeeded in swatting its own thumb.

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CLOSING STOCK LETTER.

By direct private wires to D. C. Mackintosh & Co.

New York, Nov. 10.—Heavy and continuous pressure against U. S. Steel common stock was the dominating feature and influence in today's stock market. Under these offerings that stock made a further heavy decline and the whole market broke in sympathy. The ostensible basis of the selling of Steel was the expectation of a very poor statement of orders booked, which proved to be well qualified this exhibit by showing that under the new methods of accounting the tonnage of the subsidiary companies which until comparatively recent months, had been included in these statements, had not been reckoned on.

Inasmuch, however, as conditions in steel trade have been familiar to the most casual observer, the causes of the heavy selling of these stocks are further to seek. A prominent room trader who has figured largely in the sales of Steel common for a week past, was again the most conspicuous seller today. The sources of these heavy offerings have tended to confirm all observers as to the true significance of the move. There were all sorts of explanations afloat but none were so satisfactory as the new knowledge of trade conditions. The railroads and other consumers of steel products, for obvious reasons, have been out of the steel market for a long time past and so far as the railroads are concerned, it is not expected that any substantial change will take place until the interstate commerce commission has pronounced upon the reasonableness of the new freight schedule. Meanwhile the heavy liquidation that has occurred in the stock market has vastly improved technical conditions and it would not be surprising if it should turn out that the current downward movement was planned and executed with a view to accumulate stocks at a cheap level.

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NEWS SUMMARY.

By direct private wires to J. C. Mackintosh & Co.

Americans in London firm 3/4 to 1/2 abate party.
Bank of England rate unchanged.
London settlement continues today and concludes tomorrow.
United States Steel tonnage report today.
Congressional defeat of Republican party proves much more sweeping than was at first indicated.
President Elkins seriously ill and expected to undergo operation at Washington.
Estimated that steel rail orders this month may approach 500,000 tons.
General market in London heavy and inclined to sell off.
Copper market continues firm around 13 cents with good sales reported.
Western railroad engineers expected to vote for general strike.
Sign of iron market slow with few signs of improvement.
Western roads generally report big business but with small profits.
Twelve industrials declined 41.
Twenty rails declined 1.67 per cent.
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By direct private wires to J. C. Mackintosh & Co.

Miscellaneous.

	Ask	Bid
Asbestos Com.	14 1/2	14
Asbestos Pfd.	52	52
Bell Telephone	143	143
Can. Pac.	40	39 1/2
Cement Com.	23 1/2	23
Can. Pac. Rail.	197 1/2	196 1/2
Cement Pfd.	85 1/2	85 1/2
Cement Bonds	98	98
Can. Car Pfd.	102	102
Can. Car Bonds	103	103
Col. Ind. Bonds	100	100
Can. Rub. Com.	94	94
Duluth Superior	81	78 1/2
Hal. Elec. Tram.	130	130
Illinois Trac. Pfd.	130	130
Laurentide Com.	155	155
Laurentide Pfd.	155	155
Lake Woods Pfd.	125	125
Lake Woods Com.	128	128
St. Paul SS Marie.	134	132 1/2
Mexican	89	88
Mont. Telegraph.	148	148
Rio Com.	103	102 1/2
Mont. St. Rail.	224	223 1/2
Mont. H. and P.	140 1/2	140 1/2
Mont. St. Works.	118	117
Mackay Com.	95	94
Mackay Pfd.	75	75
N. S. S. and C. Com.	86	85 1/2
New Que. Com.	51 1/2	51 1/2
New Que. Bonds.	84 1/2	84

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