

# The Standard

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## LAURIER AS A SEPARATIONIST.

Dr. Edwards, of Frontenac, discussing the naval question in the House of Commons the other day, brought to light many forgotten facts concerning the attitude of Sir Wilfrid Laurier on Imperial questions which closely concern his Canadian naval policy. The ex-Prime Minister, in his naval policy, makes a strong appeal for the formation of a Canadian navy and resents the statements made by Premier Borden, and backed by the British Admiralty, regarding the present emergency. Sir Wilfrid now contends that there is no emergency, while in 1909 he stated in a speech delivered at North Toronto that "Germany intends some time to do with Great Britain on the high seas what she had done with France on land." The Toronto Globe in the same year held similar beliefs to those expressed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who apparently recognized that a real emergency existed at the time he made his speech. In 1910 he also recognized danger, not immediately, but in three or four years from that date. Still, in the light of these views, as Dr. Edwards pointed out, Sir Wilfrid was making every effort he could to prevent Canadian assistance for Imperial defence.

In seeking an explanation for the somewhat peculiar course taken by Sir Wilfrid on the naval question, Dr. Edwards reviews the history of the ex-Premier and quotes quite extensively from various speeches delivered by him since 1892. The course of Sir Wilfrid at the last Imperial Conference puzzled more than one of the representatives of the Overseas Dominions. Sir Jas. Findlay, Attorney General of New Zealand, and one of the delegates to the conference of 1911 referring to the stand taken by the Canadian Premier on different Imperial questions, said: "There undoubtedly seemed to me in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's words and attitude in the conference, a certain aloofness from the family circle—a civil or rather courtly coldness to the claims of the relationship and to any proposal for a closer co-operation." To this he added: "I am certainly safe in saying that the future of Canada and some of the policies of the Laurier Government affecting that future—notably the Treaty of Reciprocity with America and Canada's separate naval policy—give British Ministers more concern than the future of any of the other Dominions."

Had Sir James Findlay been familiar with some of the utterances of the then Premier of Canada the "coldness" and "aloofness" which he discovered would have been very quickly explained. Dr. Edwards quoted from a speech of Sir Wilfrid delivered in the House in 1892 in which he said: "Is there a Canadian anywhere who would not hail with joy the day when Canada would be deprived of the services of British diplomacy." At Boston, a year previous, he had told a foreign audience "that Canada would never consent to Imperial Confederation even on commercial lines because the consequences would be the participation of Canada in Britain's wars and Canada would never consent to participate in Britain's wars." This was a splendid doctrine for the then leader of the Canadian Opposition to promulgate in a foreign country, but quite in keeping with another statement of his: "The present position of Canada cannot last; even at this day England and Canada have interests totally apart and the time will come when in the very nature of things separation must take place." Of what value is his assertion "I am a subject of the British Crown," when he adds "but whenever I have to choose between the interests of England and of Canada it is manifest to me that the interests of my country are identical with the interests of the United States of America." Another quotation from a speech of Sir Wilfrid, read by Dr. Edwards, is a further explanation of the present attitude of Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the naval question: "I have again and again repeated that the goal of my aspiration is the independence of Canada, to see Canada an independent nation in due course of time."

Touching the "unholy alliance" so often referred to, Dr. Edwards read from a speech made by Mr. Turcotte, of Nicolet, a supporter of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in which that gentleman said: "It is not patriotic or loyal I say to contend that we must remain forever under the protection of the British flag, but thank God I am satisfied it will not be so and the establishment of a war navy will in my humble opinion be the last step towards independence. I speak from the Canadian point of view and my view point is also that of a greater number of the electors in my constituency and I would even say of the majority of electors in the Province of Quebec. Will not Canada sooner or later have to choose between annexation and independence?"

In concluding this part of his speech Dr. Edwards said: "It will become the Leader of the Opposition at the present time to animadvert on the statements which may or may not have been made in the last few months in the Province of Quebec, in view of the fact that he sat dumb while the statements I have cited to you were made by his followers in his presence, and what has been the course of the Right Hon. gentleman as a public man in this country? His whole course since he entered public life in Canada has been in the direction of separation of this country from the Empire and in trying to bring his aim of his about he has misrepresented British diplomacy and taught others to misrepresent it. He has misquoted and misstated British and Canadian history and taught others to do so; he has offered insults at times covert, at times open to the people of this country of British birth and encouraged others to do the same; he has represented British statesmen as tyrants and oppressors and Canadian heroes as rebels. That is the present Leader of the Opposition, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He has spoken in this House very bitterly of the Nationalists of Quebec. I am not here to enter into any defence of the Nationalists; I do not agree with many of their views, but we can at least tell from their words what they mean, but we can tell the Right Hon. gentleman should be the last man to criticize a Nationalist, because they are his own children, his own product. It was at his feet they imbibed the doctrines which they are now giving voice to. The Right Hon. gentleman has charged the Nationalists of Quebec with saying that Canada owes nothing to England. Mr. Speaker, he has preached the same doctrine from one end of the country to the other for the last five years. He has charged the Nationalists of Quebec with making unworthy appeals to race and prejudice, but is the Right Hon. gentleman himself guiltless of raising questions of race and religious prejudice for political purposes in the Province of Quebec? He has charged the Nationalists of Quebec with utterances that smelt of treason, but quote me the utterance of any Nationalist leader, of any political group, from the time of Papineau and MacKenzie down to Bourassa and MacKenzie King, and no matter how disloyal, and how unpatriotic these utterances may have been, I will quote you the counterpart of them in the words of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier."

This is rather a startling indictment of Sir Wilfrid

Laurier, but it shows him up in his true light as a separatist, and furnishes convincing evidence of his underlying purpose in advocating a navy for the protection of Canada only, instead of a navy that in time of need would be utilized to preserve the integrity of the Empire as a whole as well as Canada.

## PARCELS POST AND EXPRESS.

It does not take long these days to work out theories practically. It has been contended by those favoring the parcels post that its introduction would prove an important factor in reducing the cost of living. The producing farmer would, through its medium, be brought in direct communication with the consumer and both would benefit by doing business with each other. In theory this is all right, but the theory does not stand up under the practical test if the experiment made by a Connecticut farmer in sending eggs by mail is correct. His experience is thus described in a local newspaper:

"An experiment in sending eggs by the parcel post is described by Frank Hyde of Peckskill, and the results are not encouraging. It is true that he charges more to advertising account than may be fair, but he shows a net loss on the eggs. The details have some interest for all who may contemplate shipping eggs in this way, and possibly some Connecticut farmers who have tried it may be inclined to give their own experience. To begin with Mr. Hyde spent little more than \$2 in advertising and postage. He got orders for eight dozen eggs at forty-five cents a dozen, being fifteen cents more than he could get on the spot. In packing he used such boxes as he has used in sending hundreds of eggs about the country for hatching, without having one broken. By the post one dozen out of the eight were broken. It was necessary to wrap each egg for shipment, and the time occupied in this was reckoned at thirty-six cents, and the postage was fifty-six cents. As the boxes cost forty-eight cents there had now been an expenditure of \$3.56 to which Mr. Hyde adds forty-five cents for the dozen eggs that were broken. Thus his outlay and his loss amounted to \$4.01. In return he received \$3.60, from which he figures a net loss on the transaction of forty-one cents besides the eggs."

"At the same time that he shipped the eggs by post Mr. Hyde sent thirty dozen eggs by express. The transportation charge was thirty-five cents and the commission ninety cents. These eggs brought him thirty cents a dozen and there were no breakages, so that his net receipts on this shipment were \$7.75. It is no wonder that this particular shipper of eggs declares in favor of the express company."

The comparison of results from the two shipments made by Mr. Hyde are scarcely fair to the parcels post. In the first place the express rates on eggs are low in comparison with charges on many other commodities. Up to the present time the parcels post recognizes but one classification. Agricultural products pay as much as manufactured goods. Still it must be confessed that the comparison arising out of Mr. Hyde's experiments is disturbing to those who looked for an immediate fall in prices of all things used on the table as the result of the establishment of a parcels post. But even if the parcels post will not reduce the price of eggs it is nevertheless a good thing.

## PRESIDENT WILSON ON TRUSTS.

The corporation laws of the State of New Jersey have never been considered the best in the United States. It was due to the legislation of that State that the giant trusts owed their legal existence. Governor Woodrow Wilson, President-elect of the United States, does not propose that these conditions shall continue and with the assistance of Chancellor Walker and Judge Van Syckel has drafted voluminous bills which have already been submitted to the Legislature for the purpose of better controlling corporations chartered by or operating in the State. The various bills are summarized as follows:

"The first of these bills provides for a punishment not exceeding three years' imprisonment and \$1,000 fine for any corporations, firms, or individuals who may agree to any of the following: To limit production or increase prices; to prevent competition in manufacturing, transporting, or selling any commodity; to fix any standard or figure whereby prices to the public shall in any manner be controlled; to make any agreement which shall directly or indirectly preclude a free and unrestricted competition among themselves or any purchasers or consumers; to make any secret oral agreement whereby the same thing is accomplished. The bill specifies that directors of corporations ordering or doing any of the prohibited acts shall be adjudged guilty as individuals, and that the charter of the offending corporation may be revoked. Next term will begin Thursday, January 2nd. Send for catalogue."

"The second bill provides that corporations shall not issue stock upon fictitious values of property, but must make a fair bona fide valuation."

"The third bill provides that it shall be a misdemeanor (punishable by fine or imprisonment) to organize a corporation with intent to promote or conduct any project or object intended to be used in restraint of trade or acquiring a monopoly."

"Repeal of the present law, authorizing holding companies, is provided in the fourth bill. This bill, however, would not disturb existing companies in holding and voting the stock of other corporations which they already own."

"The fifth bill prevents merged companies from acquiring stock of other corporations in the future. "Consent of the Public Utility Commission must be procured hereafter when two or more corporations want to merge, should the sixth bill become a law."

"The seventh bill prohibits discrimination by corporations in prices of commodities in different communities, except for a proper allowance for cost of transportation and other similar charges."

This proposed legislation is important for more than one reason. It shows the mind of the next President of the United States on the trust question and at the same time exhibits the trend of thought towards what has come to be recognized as an evil that must immediately be dealt with. The great difficulty in dealing with trusts is to draw the line between what is legitimate competition and restraint of trade. This has been one of the principal difficulties in enforcing the Sherman law. While it will be generally admitted that Mr. Wilson's legislation is along the right lines there will be many to doubt its efficiency in controlling the trade organizations which have been created during the past quarter of a century in the United States. The most of the evil is seemingly still far below ground.

"Times have changed," commented Gov. Sulzer of New York, in comparing the habits of public men of the past and present. When he first went to Congress, the Governor said, it was always possible to get a quorum in the bar under the House of Representatives, even if there was no quorum in the House. "But the good sense and better judgment of the members," he added, "have changed those conditions." But he failed to inform his auditors where to look for the quorum in these days if it was not to be found in the House.

There is still a wild and woolly West. In the Wyoming Legislature when Speaker Pratt and Speaker Pro-Tem Wood both claimed the right to preside, a violent fight, which was interrupted by members, took place between the two officers. The freemen of the West are not to be trampled upon and are still prepared to stand for their rights even at the cost of the dignity of a whole house of representatives.

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