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RICHIBUCTO, N. B., DEC. 28, 1899

PATRIOTISM AND PARTY ISM.

The Conservative press is seemingly determined to keep up its campaign of misrepresentation in regard to the attitude of the Government in sending the Canadian contingents to South Africa to assist the mother land in her time of trial. The reader of the Montreal Star or St. John Sun would naturally wonder why long ere this the Canadian Confederation has not been torn asunder by internecine strife, for these organs are assuring the world that less than one-half of the people of the Dominion are loyal either to Canada or to the Empire, while the larger half are daily denounced as rebels, traitors and disunionists. Such action on the part of our Conservative opponents overreaches itself and inspires disgust in the hearts of the intelligent people of our country, who can readily see that it is *Partyism* rather than *Patriotism* that is inspiring such malicious attacks.

For 18 years the Conservatives used the British flag to cover up the dirty spots on their record, and under its folds were concealed the political immorality of the numerous public scandals for which the last ten years of Conservative rule were particularly notorious. When the electorate was dissatisfied with the story of shame brought to light by the parliamentary investigation of the McGreevy Scandal, their qualms of conscience were lulled by the assurance that the Conservative was the only loyal party, and by inference it was argued that it was better to have dishonest and incompetent administration under Conservative patriots than clean, honest and progressive government under Liberal traitors. Since that time the people of Canada have learned not to be afraid of this Conservative "bogey."

"What's in a name,
"A rose by any other name would
smell as sweet,"
and calling oneself a patriot is not sufficient to justify incapacity of administration, any more than calling your opponent a rebel will necessarily make you a patriot. The Conservative party is a wonderful party in one respect, its leaders are skilful in fooling the people, diverting the popular mind from real issues by the raising of imaginary ones, and by making words take the place of actions. To-day Sir Charles Tupper and his friends are actually claiming a monopoly of the patriotism of Canada, and their one and only right to make such a claim is that they are seemingly able to make more noise and bluster than their more modest opponents. The Laurier Government and the Liberal party do not claim any particular credit for their patriotic action in the past four years of government, because every Liberal feels that every

Canadian is inspired with a feeling of loyalty and devotion not only to his native land, but to the Empire as a whole. This is true irrespective of party ties and equally irrespective of race, colour or creed. Patriotism to the Empire is the birthright of every Canadian, and on no occasion has there been any evidence on the part of any of our citizens to show any different disposition.

The only distinction there has been in this particular between the two great political parties is that the Conservative leaders have given proof of their patriotism in words alone so far as their record in government is concerned, whereas the Liberal party has proven its loyalty to British connection by the more potent proof of patriotic actions. From 1878 to 1896, during a term of 18 years in which the Conservatives held the reins of power, their Government never exhibited a single practical illustration of that patriotic zeal which we were ever assured was consuming the party then in power. In all that time there is not on record a single offer, from the successive Conservative administrations from Sir John McDonald's down to and including Sir Charles Tupper's lease of power, of a Canadian contingent to assist the Empire in her various times of trial. Our readers will remember well the answer of Sir John A. McDonald, when in the Soudan war of 1882-4, General Laurie, M. P., for Queens-Shelburne, N. S., and Col. Williams offered two brigades for service in that campaign. Sir John McDonald told them that Canada was not bothering with Britain's brawls and refused to endorse the government's recommendation to the offer made by these gentlemen. When Col. Donville twice, prior to 1896, offered the services of the 8th Princess Louise Hussars for foreign duty in Britain's need, the Conservative Government also declined to recommend the acceptance of the offer. Nay, more, when Britain needed the services of the Canadian Voyageurs as boatmen on the Nile, the Government of the day made no offer to send these sturdy bateaux men of the Ottawa and Saginay and the British government were forced to enroll them and pay them as private recruits. Even Sir Charles Tupper has placed himself squarely on record at different times as being directly opposed to Canada furnishing men or money in aid of the British arms. As late as 1896 Sir Charles Tupper at the Banquet of the Imperial Federation League in London in response to the toast of "The Imperial Forces," made the statement that Canada had already made an ample contribution to the Imperial forces in the building of the C. P. R. as a great military route to the east in time of war and that nothing further should be expected from her either in men or money. Such is the record of the Conservative party in the matter of Imperial patriotism.

The Liberals on the other hand have a record of patriotic actions of which every Canadian may well be proud. By the inspiring presence of Sir Wilfred Laurier at the great pageant of the Queen's Jubilee, the British mind was freed from the misconception that there was only one party and only one race in Canada determined to maintain British connection, while his patriotic words evoked the warmest commendation from all classes in the mother land. With him at that time, Sir Wilfred carried to Britain from the Canadian people the first practical evidence of loyalty that Canada had ever shown her great mother. The 25 per cent. preference reduction in all imports into Canada from Great Britain and the Empire aroused not only the enthusiasm

of the people of the home land but was the birth of a new hope of a British federation which had previously been but an idle dream, to the realization of which no action had hitherto been taken. In Canada it aroused the national life and when it was followed on the part of Great Britain by the denunciation at Canada's request of the Belgian and German trade treaties, we Canadians felt that a new tie had been forged to bind us to the Empire in this recognition of Britain's faith in her greatest colony and in Britain's desire to let nothing stand in the way of a closer trade connection. Since then the Liberal government has given further proofs, equally practical of its desire to rivet the bonds linking Canada to the Empire. The introduction of Imperial Penny Postage and Canada's prompt and energetic action in the Australian Cable Scheme might be mentioned among the practical evidences of Canada's action in consolidating the Imperial interests. And in these latter days a more convincing proof has been afforded of Canadian patriotism. Before war was thought of in South Africa, Sir Wilfred Laurier moved a resolution in the House of Commons assuring the home government of Canada's sympathy with her determination to support British interests in the Transvaal, and when it became evident that war was a possibility, the Canadian Government offered a contingent of Canada's sons for British service in South Africa. This offer had no sooner been accepted and the contingent equipped, than Sir Wilfred Laurier on behalf of the Canadian people made a second offer of an additional contingent. The British Government declined that second offer for the time being, but when reverses came, turned to her loyal colony and accepted the proffered assistance. To-day the men are being enrolled for the second Canadian contingent and even more may be needed, and if so will willingly be sent by Canada. Is it not then idle in the light of these uncontrovertible facts for the Conservative leaders to persist in their attempt to claim a monopoly of Canadian loyalty and out of the undoubted patriotism of our people to try to gain a party advantage?

THE WAR.

The news of the temporary reverse to General Buller's army at the Tugela River, which at first spread dismay and consternation in the hearts of the people of the British Empire, has been effective in arousing a determination in the British world to allow no reverse or defeat to effect the final result. The fiat has gone forth that undeterred by the enormous expenditure and the fearful loss of precious lives, which has already made the Transvaal campaign a notable one, the Briton at home and abroad has determined to see the trouble to a victorious result. General Buller's defeat was as unexpected as it was humiliating to the Imperial arms, but it is the gravest peril which inevitably calls forth the true national feeling and reveals to a wondering world the inability of the Briton to realize when he is beaten. Any other nation would have, compelled by the populace at home, to make terms with the Boers in the face of the successive reverses which the different divisions of the British army have met at their hands. Its effect on the British public has been the breeding of a fierce determination that victory shall perch at last on the Imperial banners if it takes the last dollar and the last man of the regular and volunteer forces. In Britain itself these reverses have united the two great political parties, the Liberals who have been inclined to doubt the necessity of the awful

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conflict joining with their opponents and promising to withhold criticism until the common enemy had been disposed of and the national honor vindicated.
To-day in South Africa is being proved the correctness of Bismark's graphic statement, "War is hell," for foemen worthy of each others steel have met in the death grapple which must leave its furrow of sorrow and destruction graven deeply on the national life of both Boer and Briton, and make the country of the contest little better than a waste place of the earth for many years to come. From the British standpoint the excuse for the bloody struggle is that it was inevitable if British rights were to mean anything more than an empty boast. The christian world is looking on with faith in an all wise Providence somewhat strained, murmuring "How long, O Lord, how long" must the fearful carnage continue. And yet out of the conflict may come the civilization of the African continent.

One outcome of this war which must leave a lasting impression on the world's history is the unity of British Imperialism. To-day the soldiers of Canada, India, Australia, Cape Colony and Natal are fighting shoulder to shoulder in a common cause with the regulars and volunteers of the British Isles. Their individuality as representatives of the world empire is merged in a common interest as "Soldiers of the Queen." The show of power of which the Queen's Jubilee Pageant was a gorgeous illustration has given way to a more real exhibition of what the world must meet before the dream of continental Europe can be realized in the downfall of Britain. Canada is sending a couple of thousand men to South Africa as a sample of her war material, but if need comes 200,000 can follow in the wake of this gallant little band. When the war is over and the final roll call comes there will be many an empty place in the Canadian contingents and the Adsum will be wanting in response to many a name. Canadian homes will be desolate as part of our contribution to Imperialism, but there will come a strengthened

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ing of our kinship with Britons the world over as Canadian tears mingle with those of the mother land for the brave that went forth at duty's call and met their fate like heroes.
"For how can man die better
"Than by facing fearful odds
"For the ashes of his fathers
"And the temples of his Gods."
THE NEW YEAR.
The year 1900 seems like a turning point in the forceful way that pertains only to the close of each century. The mind inevitably turns back in review of the world's progress during the past hundred years and a mental comparison springs unbidden of the changed conditions of life from the beginning to the close of that eventful period. To us it seems as if the 19th century had been more fruitful of events of value to humanity than any other in the long chain, saving always the incomparable first century. So many inventions and discoveries have marked this closing century that it almost seems as if a new world had been developed in that period. At this distance it appears as though the people of the 18th century lived much as their predecessors of the 1st century had done, knowing little or nothing more of the great world forces of gravitation, heat, light and electricity, and moving calmly through life without the products of these discoveries and the inventions resulting from steam power,

the printing press and the thousand and one things that are so necessary to our existence that without these life itself would seem barren and burdensome. The nomad of the earlier centuries has been replaced by the commercial traveller of the present period, the dreary sameness of life which characterized the opening of this century has been replaced at its close by a hurrying world whose very existence is threatened by their inability to take life easy.
The new year comes to us at a serious time in our national history and will in all likelihood see the termination of this African struggle in a way satisfactory to every patriot. But before that must come many weary days of waiting and of worse.

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