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Likened to the Three Tailors of Tooley Street

Where the Premier Stood a Year Ago He Stands Today on the Naval Question--Montreal Tory Newspaper Man Went to England for the Express Purpose of Sending Out Ridiculous Effusions of the Tory Trio for Canadian Consumption

To the Editor of The Chronicle:

Sir—I do not know whether the public are aware of the fact and if not, it is just as well they should be that the exaggerated and fulsome reports of the proceedings and speeches of Mr. Borden and Mr. Hazen and that delectable Nationalist Mr. Pelletier, in England, do not come from English sources at all but are being forwarded from England by a well known Montreal Tory newspaper man who went to England for the express purpose of sending out these ridiculous effusions descriptions of performances which to these who know the performers, are ludicrous.

Less than one short year ago the Navy question was being discussed in Quebec. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had for the first time in our history provided for Canada assisting the Mother Country on the sea by beginning the construction in Canada of a number of vessels which could protect our coast in peace and assist the Empire in war. This proposition insured the initiation on Canada's seaboard of a shipbuilding industry which should be begun at once if the country's prosperity is to be permanently insured, and as the years go by, growing with our growth the number of our vessels would be increased and the extent of our assistance enhanced.

A NOISY NATIONALIST

Australia was doing the same thing under a law almost identical with ours, the only difference being that as they had no iron or steel industry as far as advanced as ours now is, they were perforce compelled to arrange to get their ships built in England, but in principle and in fact the status and relation of Australia to the Mother Country was exactly the same as ours.

While that was Canada's position, where were this worthy trio? Pelletier a blatant Nationalist, one of the noisiest of the gang, going up and down the Province of Quebec, shouting in his ferocious French that the children of the inhabitants "were to be wrenched from their homes, sent to fight the battles of England and to be disembowelled on the deck of one of Laurier's vessels," and again, with his confrere Sevigny demanding of his audiences "What has England done for you? The Laurier Cabinet is a Cabinet of imperialists who want to sacrifice Canada's interests and to plunge us into wars with which we have nothing to do" and again, "We will bore holes in the British Flag if necessary, to gain our liberties."

This was the song of disloyalty sung on all occasions until Hon. Mr. Pelletier, squeezed into a seat on September 21st, and then solely because of his having been loud mouthed and extreme he was given a seat in the Cabinet.

THE TIN POT NAVY

Mr. Hazen childlike and bland was talking about tin pot navies and watching with inward joy the howlings of Pelletier and his crowds.

Mr. Borden who had supported the resolution in Parliament on which the naval law was based and had gone home to England and back to Halifax declaring that the naval proceedings had been the result of a conference, between himself and Sir Wilfrid Laurier and that "One governing principle should control that out of our own materials by our own labor and by the instructed skill of our own people any necessary provision for our naval defence should be entered upon." What was he saying and doing in 1911? Talking unintelligible nothings just as he is doing in England today; hiding his real mind as given above in a mixed and muddled vocabulary and wanting to see whether the disloyal talk of Bourassa, Mank and Pelletier his colleagues would arouse the Province of Quebec.

This is where the trio were just one short year ago.

CANADA'S LOYALTY

In England we have had flutulent orations about Canada's loyalty to the Empire and assurance of our standing by the old land and beautiful nothings intended to lead English public opinion to believe that these "three tailors of Tooley Street" had brought some news to England and that the Empire was in danger had they not come over. Just imagine the in most thoughts of these three worthless as they contemplated their attitude of July 1911 as compared with July 1912. The transformation of a lion in the forest to a family Tom cat would be a poor comparison when out along side of the change that had come over the Robespierre hole borer Pelletier of July 1911 and made him the purring patriot of July 1912. And the other two who had sat on the fence and

edged him on, with Bourassa, Laverge, Sevigny and all the crew, theirs was certainly a transformation from such a task in July 1911 to tickling the ears of the Tory Jingoos in July 1912.

"AS CLEAR AS MUD"

One day there is to be three Dreadnoughts, next day none at all, one day Canadian passenger steamers to be made armoured cruisers, next day not that at all, and with much wind and wine drinking here and there the result is we are assured by Mr. Cahon who is said to be the bell whether for the Nationalist leader, that, "in none of his public utterances has Mr. Borden yet receded from the principle that Canada's contribution to imperial and naval and military defence, is in a large measure conditional upon Canada's participation in the direction and control of Imperial affairs."

The translation into ordinary language of this apocryphal statement means that if Mr. Cahon is right Canada will not contribute to naval defence unless Imperial Federation is brought about. And as this is no chance in the world of any arrangement of that kind being now made after all the verbiage and flutulent utterances which no one can interpret and which have been the chief stock in the trade of Canadian Premier in England, the matter must stand until Imperial Federation is arranged. No one but Mr. Cahon has ventured to interpret Mr. Borden's utterances. The ordinary man applying the well understood rules of construction, has arisen from a consideration of them with a depressed feeling that they were as "clear as mud."

What relief the public can get from the oracular explanation given by Mr. Cahon is a problem. The fact remains that after going up and down in England for over a month talking all the time, no one in England or Canada knows where the Canadian Ministers are on this great question.

HISTORY OF THE PROPOSAL

We are told that Ministers and others are coming to Canada from England. If they are coming for information let them come, but if they are coming to attempt to instruct our people or to interfere in our domestic politics or concerns, it is just as well for them all to understand that they are inaugurating a proceeding that has never been attempted in our history and that they are sowing the seeds of a resentment which under certain conditions will bode no good for those interests which every one who has truly Empire interests at heart, would like to see advanced.

The history of the proposal to assist the Mother Country in naval matter has been a varied one. In 1909 both sides were supposed to have sunk party and in the House of Commons to the strains of "God Save the King," all parties joined in a resolution stating our position and our attitude. Then came the miserable intervening period when Borden surrendered ignominiously to Bourassa, Monk and Pelletier and allowed for petty party gain, the disloyal agitation that set Quebec aflame.

TRIO AND THE TRIP

1842—Island of Hong Kong ceded
 We have just had the chapter of perpetuity to England.

this trio and their English trip misrepresenting the attitude of their Canadian opponents and declaring with the taste of his last year's utterances still in Pelletier's mouth that they and theirs alone loved the Empire.

What a commentary on all these facts in the headline on an editorial in the "Halifax Herald." "Let us by all means keep Partyism out of the Naval Defence Question." As one who cherishes and believes in closer Empire connection who looks forward to the position which Canada will hold with twenty millions of people (which she shall have in twenty years), as probably the strongest factor in the Empire, I cannot help feeling that the methods which since 1909 have been adopted by Conservative leaders in dealing with this question, carried within themselves the seeds of destruction which will bring forth from day to day difficulties that are confronting and will confront the public men of Canada of both political parties, who want to see this question settled right and on terms which mean that Canada will do her full duty to the Empire upon a basis that will last and will in the coming years stand the test of time and circumstances.

THE COMPACT OF 1909

To destroy the compact of 1909 made by both parties, to please the Quebec Nationalist would be a crime against Canada and the Empire. The bombastic performances in England and the self-advised speeches there will not make for any settlement of the question.

It is time platitudes to be silenced and men to consider whether the policy of 1909 shall not stand. It means Canadian Shipyards which in 10 years (not long these days) will rival those of Belfast or the Clyde; it means Canadian Labor, money, brains and patriotism producing war vessels and cruisers which as we grow in years, population and wealth, will increase and develop and the greatest supporting factor to the Naval supremacy of the Empire.

THE QUESTION TO SOLVE

The question is whether in twenty years from now and during all the intervening years Canada is to have no progress in shipbuilding and if war occurs be without even a repair shop to assist the Empire, and send its money out of the country blindly and without results, or whether we will begin now to insure shipbuilding construction and repair depots where our ships and the Empire's ships will be built and repaired and additional protection and safety guaranteed to Britain and her junior nations both in Peace and War.

Let us have faith in our own future and maintain the compact. The performances in England will be the laughing stock of every thinker on this question in a year from now. Let us be sane and practical in Canada. Unless we are so and give over such nonsense as has been exhibited by the Premier and his Ministers no results for either Canada or the Empire can be obtained.

A PRACTICAL IMPERIALIST

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The Dorchester Historical Society of Boston has been presented with a banner which was carried by the adherents of Henry Clay through the New England States at the time Mr. Clay was a candidate for President. It is thought to be the only one in existence.

Political rumor in Ohio says that N. C. Wright, editor of the Cleveland Leader and an ardent Roosevelt supporter, probably will become a candidate on the Progressive ticket for United States senator to succeed Theodore Burton, whose term will expire in 1915.

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