

HON. GEORGE E. FOSTER'S VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED CONTRIBUTION

"The first and greatest objection which I have to a fixed money contribution is that it bears the aspect of hiring somebody else to do what we ourselves ought to do, as though a man, the father of a family, in lusty health and strength, should pay his neighbor something per month for looking after the welfare and safety of his home instead of doing that duty himself. That seems to me, when you work it out, to be a basic objection to this form of aid.

"It goes still further than that. Suppose you contribute this year your sum, and next year your equal sum, and thereafter year after year. After ten or twelve, or twenty to thirty years, you will have paid out an immense amount of money. You will have been protected in the meantime; but in Canada itself there will be no roots struck, there will be no preparation of the soil, or beginning of the growth of the produce of defence. Yet some time or other, no one can doubt that, with resources and with a population constantly increasing, we must and will have in this country a naval force of our own for our coast and home defence.

"The interest that we take in a contribution spent by another is not the interest that I desire for Canada. I want to see something grafted on the soil of Canada's nationhood, which takes root and grows and develops until it incites the spirit of defence in this country, leads to a participation in the defence, leads to that quick interest in it, its glories, its duties and its accomplished work, which is after all the one great thing that compensates a people for great expenditure either on land or on sea in the way of defence and of maintenance of the rights of the country.

"Again, it disjoins what has been joined together from earliest days of the world's existence—commerce and the protection of commerce. After all, the basic idea of a naval force is the protection of the commerce of a country. A commerce side by side with its protector, and its protector side by side with the growing commerce of a country, flourish best together, and are the surest helpers to each other. That is the idea which is in my mind—that when we make our contributions in the way of a fixed sum and it goes from us, and we are not responsible for it, we have none of the inspiration resulting from the growth and development of a system of future defence in our own country. We are deprived of the larger benefit ourselves, and in the future we do no greater service to the Empire of which we form a part, in this matter of defence.

"Then again, I think this method ignores the necessities and the aspirations and the prospects of a great people, such as the Canadian people are destined to become. We must have beginnings; these must at first be small; but some time or other as I have said, our country will have its naval force for the defence of this country, if for nothing else. The point with me is as to whether it is not the greater wisdom to sow the seed at once and cultivate its growth as best we may, in our circumstances and with our resources until at last we arrive at that stage of expansion which we have reached in other great lines of our country's progress."

Hon. George E. Foster in the House of Commons on March 29th, 1909.

Mr. L. C. Daigle of Moncton, dairy superintendent, is at the Barker House.

Mr. A. C. VanWart of St. John, is at the Barker House.

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YOUNG SON IS GROWN; SHOULD DEFEND HOME

Hon. George P. Graham's Able Speech on the Naval Bill—Proposal to Hire Britons to do Our Work a Libel on Canada

Ottawa, Dec. 12.—Hon. George P. Graham followed Hon. J. D. Hazen in a vigorous speech on the naval policy in the commons this evening. The people of Canada, he said, would approach the consideration of this important subject armed of their duty and responsibility as British subjects, and of their rights and privileges as Canadians. Mr. Hazen had championed a policy of inactivity and inability. He had talked about being represented on the firing line of the British navy. He would have Canada represented on the firing line of a resolution, not on the firing line of real defence. What did the Englishman who had come to take up his home in Canada think of this ideal of Canadian policy? What of the British-born, the English, the Irish, the Scottish, the French—for there were no more loyal Canadians than the descendants of old France—think of the proposal to pay money to hire the sons of Britain to do our fighting for us? "I tell you, the proposal misrepresents the men of Canada," declared Mr. Graham, amid cheering. "If this thing is to go through—I appeal to the Government to strike out the libel on the Canadian people. Every true Canadian will resent the thought that we are to buy three of finest vessels that science has designed or money can purchase and leave the hulks unmanned, an additional tax on the British ratepayer."

YOUNG SON HAS GROWN UP

Mr. Graham briefly but most effectively reviewed the struggle for responsible government in Canada. Noting that the central feature of Canadian history had been the successful struggle to govern themselves as they saw fit, and to expend their own money, and not have it expended for them from Downing street. That was the great underlying issue at stake in the present debate. The young son had grown into manhood, had taken charge of defence of his own home, so far as the militia was concerned, and should now do the same with regard to naval defence.

INTENSE DEVOTION TO EMPIRE

Coincident with the growth of responsible government and the assumption of the duties of manhood there had been also a steadily intensified development of devotion toward the Empire. Canadians were ready to repay the debt owed to the motherland and were now in a position to do so. The British preference had been one of the first steps, although opposed by the party now in power. Then as now the Conservative (gained for terms and proposed that Canada must get something in return.

The question of representation was made a barbed door in the way of doing something along the line of a permanent policy. That might mean the indefinite postponement of any permanent policy. The Liberal policy, in line with the development of the past, opened the way. The speeches of Messrs. Borden and Foster in 1909, said Mr. Graham, prior to the unholy alliance, were them-

selves eloquent arguments in support of the resolution proposed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

VESSELS AVAILABLE INSTANTLY.

Dealing with the criticism of Mr. Hazen that parliament would have to be called before the Canadian navy could be sent to the assistance of the Motherland, Mr. Graham noted that under the present naval act the vessels could be sent on fifteen minutes' notice by order in council. Were the present ministers afraid of their loyalty? Parliament would have to be summoned to vote the necessary money. No one doubted that that vote would be both prompt and generous. Reviewing the proceedings of the imperial conferences, and the naval action agreed upon by the other dominions, Mr. Graham noted that the present government was taking up the policy which Australia had discarded three years ago as unsatisfactory and inadequate. "The policy of my hon. friends has been unmanned like their boats."

A NATURAL DEVELOPMENT.

As to why the Liberals had not proposed two fleet units four years ago, Mr. Graham said that it was for the same reason that the British troops were not taken away in 1850 or 1860 instead of 1870—the time had not arrived. They favored the principle, and provided for certain vessels which would in time form part of fleet units on both the Pacific and Atlantic. Now the trend of events and increase of revenue had been such that the policy of a naval unit on both the Pacific and Atlantic was the natural development of the proposals of four years ago.

THE TWO POLICIES CONTRASTED

"You propose to give three dreadnoughts to be manned and maintained by the British admiralty. We propose to build two, but to add to them other vessels, to make each the centre of a naval unit, and man and maintain them ourselves. Mr. Borden says that we cannot build them now, so he proposes to hurry up our power to do so by postponing it indefinitely. (Laughter.) If the Laurier policy were carried out," said Hon. Mr. Graham, "the British shipbuilders would be in Canada now building these vessels, to be paid for in Canada, and then to be the property of the Canadian people. Compare this with the present expedient of spending money on ships to be built in England and then owned and maintained in Great Britain. Instead of a plebiscite, what I would like would be for the government to bring down a redistribution bill and let us go to the country. (Opposition cheers.) If it is at all fair we will help you put it through and then face

(Continued on page 7)

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People in Arkansas ride horseback through their barren hills—and they call their winding, rocky paths "good roads;"

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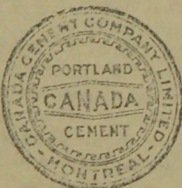
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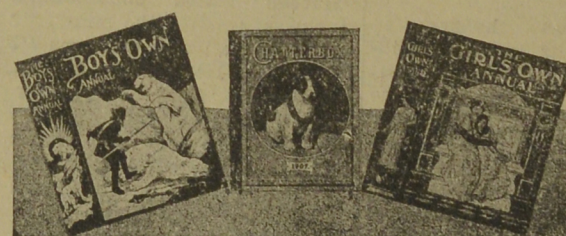
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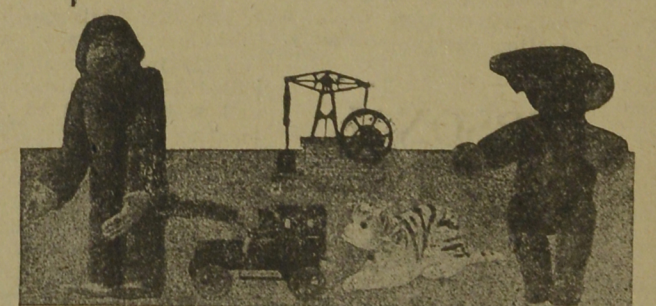
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